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At least nine dead in 5-minute tremor

# Eastern Europe rocked by massive quake

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the most powerful earthquakes to be recorded shook central Europe from the Baltic to the Black Sea yesterday, yet initial reports put the death toll at only nine in spite of widespread destruction across thousands of miles.

Eight were killed and 260 injured in and near Bucharest, and a woman died of shock on the Danube river dividing Romania and Bulgaria. Serious damage was reported in the Soviet republic of Moldova, where Tass said there were more dead and wounded but gave no details.

The quake, bigger than that which killed 67 people in San Francisco last year, was in the Carpathian mountains that run through eastern Romania and its Moldavian border and lasted more than five minutes, according to recordings at the seismic network operated by the British Geological Survey at Edinburgh. It measured 7.5 on the open-ended Richter scale.

The tremor was felt throughout Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Soviet Armenia — where more than 20,000 died in a 1988 quake that measured 6.9 on the Richter scale. Another tremor, measuring 5.9 on the scale, killed 33 people in Peru on Tuesday.

Bucharest radio and television reports said the Romanian toll was expected to rise. Many of the casualties were among people who slept in high-rise flats, and were fled from the buildings.

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Berlin will again be a whole city by the beginning of July when the Wall truncating hundreds of streets is to be demolished to make way for new roads. Page 9

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A security guard was killed when soldiers attacked a United Nations compound five miles from the centre of Monrovia in Liberia. Page 9

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The switch by London's International Stock Exchange to a paperless shares system could cost between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs among stockbrokers' backroom staff. Page 21

### England call

Graham Taylor, who guided Aston Villa to second place in the first division last season, will be interviewed within the next eight days by the Football Association about becoming manager of England. Page 40

homes as tiles and masonry tumbled from rooftops. "For a few seconds, I thought I could see death, then I ran for my life," Mr Dana Niculescu, an office worker said. Schools were evacuated and children sat in playgrounds still trembling from aftershocks half an hour after the main tremor.

The quake knocked out telephone lines in Moldova, cutting contact with villages in the southern part of the republic. The deputy speaker of the Chamber of Nationalities, Ilmar Biser, said Moldova had been worst hit, and reported not only material damage, but also dead and injured. He called for a minute's silence.

President Gorbachov, who is in North America for his summit with President Bush, said: "I have been told there were shocks in Moldova and Armenia. It was even felt in Moscow, but everything is OK. There is no destruction and no victims." Asked if he intended to cut short his visit, Mr Gorbachov said: "No. Everything is OK."

Mrs Janet Richards, a seismologist at Edinburgh, said she was surprised by the length and intensity of the quake, which started at 10.44 GMT. Such a tremor in a densely-populated area would be catastrophic, she said.

As Europe was recovering from the shockwaves, reports emerged another quake in Peru's north-eastern jungle region which killed at least 33 people on Tuesday night. That tremor hit Moyobamba, the capital of San Martin department 400 miles north of Lima. Seven of those who died were from the town's 50,000 population. The others were from nearby villages in the jungle area. There had been at least 20 aftershocks.

The disturbances coincided with the publication today of a prediction of the next earthquake along the San Andreas fault in California at a section between San Francisco and Los Angeles known as the Parkfield segment. Dr M Wyss

and colleagues of the University of Colorado, writing in the latest issue of *Nature*, forecast a "moderate" tremor within the next two years.

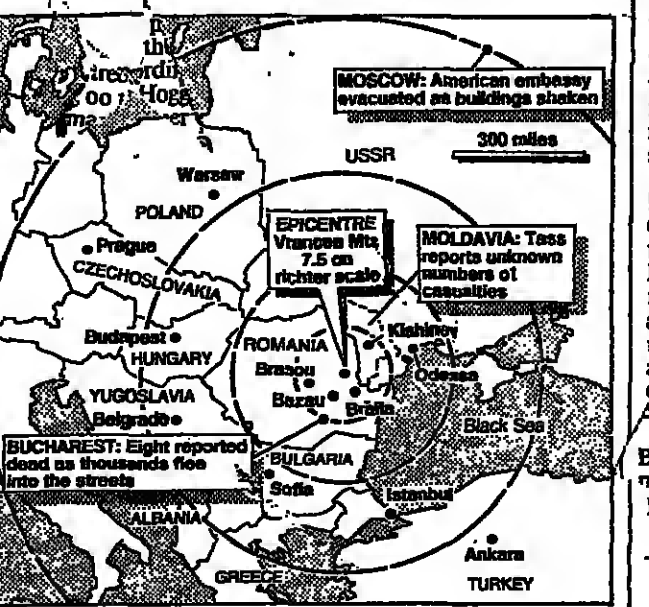
Mrs Richards said severe earthquakes had been recorded in southern Europe and the Black Sea area. More than 1,500 people were killed in March 1977, in Bucharest, and part of the Romanian capital destroyed in an earthquake measuring 7.5. Another occurred under the Carpathians in 1940.

The scale devised by Dr Charles Richter, an American seismologist, in 1935 is based on a change in the intensity of ground movement. Each step represents an tenfold increase in intensity, so that an earthquake of magnitude 5 is 10 times as powerful as magnitude 4 and 100 times more than one registering 2.

The extent of the area affected by an earthquake depends on its depth. A shallow one of 10 to 15 kms expands most of its damaging force locally. A deep one, such as the 150 km fault beneath Bucharest, causes surface destruction but also transmits powerful seismic waves through the rock formations that form the interior of the continental plates. Most injuries are from falling masonry.

Massive earthquakes can happen in seemingly stable, old geological formations well away from the boundaries of tectonic plates such as the San Andreas fault, in California.

Mrs Richards suggests the latest earthquake might have occurred in an old tectonic region, but a site where long ago one of the plates rode over the other. The obvious result was the mountain building of the region. Hidden deep beneath the surface, the rock structure from the plate that was pushed underneath, including strata that may have been forced into irregular deformed shapes. Those provide the latent faults for an earthquake when they collapse from the pressures constantly at work in the Earth's crust.



## Israel beach gun battle

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN NIZZANIM, ISRAEL

ISRAELI forces fought Palestinian commandos yesterday in a fierce gun battle on the beach of this resort south of Tel Aviv.

The bodies of four Palestinian gunmen were carried off the sand dunes and loaded onto ambulances after several hours of fighting.

Hundreds of troops sealed off a large stretch of coastline and helicopter gunships circled above for more than six hours as the guerrillas were

hunted down and either killed or captured.

The Israeli Chief of Staff, General Dan Shamron, said that six speed boats had set out from a Libyan mother ship some 120 miles off the Israeli coast.

"The aim of this operation was to kill civilians in the most populated areas of Israel, the central beaches of the Tel Aviv area," he said.

Raid thwarted, page 7

# Making easy EC money on the waterfront

From PETER GUILFORD, BRUSSELS

FRENCH cereals were off-loaded from the stern of the Soviet vessel Kapitan Danilkin in Hamburg, then immediately reloaded at the bow so that they could be classified as of German origin to qualify for a special export rebate devised by the European Commission in Brussels under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The European Community's own financial watchdog, the Court of Auditors, reveals details of this alarming scheme, uncovered by two members of its staff, in the most stinging attack on the management of the Community's farm spending to have emerged over the past year. An estimated £40 million was spent on

the scheme in a matter of weeks in what one Court official described as "sheer waste".

The Court accuses the Commission of gross mismanagement in the way it decides how and how much to pay European farmers to export beef, cereals and dairy products from the Community. It says Brussels is guilty of excessive and erratic spending with "insufficient regard to the need for economy", but it does not call for farm subsidies to be altogether abolished.

The Commission has angrily rejected the Court of Auditors' allegations, made in a detailed report on export subsidies launched here yesterday. One top farm official said the

Court was trying to "sabotage" the CAP, while M Guy Legras, who is in charge of the policy, immediately defended his staff, saying they had already devised ways of tightening controls and simplifying paperwork, making the Court's accusations largely redundant. "I regret that the Court has not got to the bottom of things in its research," he declared yesterday.

While Brussels receives most of the blame for the EC's crippling high farm budget, the Court is hardly less scathing about national governments. Britain is among a handful of countries which are accused of cutting back on Customs staff and facilities, depriving them of the support they

need to catch those who commit fraud, particularly big traders who have the resources to fiddle the EC's excessively complicated export refund system.

The British Government maintains the report vindicates its own calls for tougher action to combat fraud. Mr David Curry, a junior Minister for Agriculture, and the Earl of Caithness, the Paymaster General, said in a joint statement yesterday: "We welcome this excellent report which will strengthen our hand in pressing for more effective anti-fraud measures." The EC must make itself more financially accountable to national parliaments, the Government believes.

## France bans British beef

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT AND SUSAN MACDONALD IN PARIS

BRITAIN last night accused France of undermining European Community law by announcing a ban from today on imports of British beef and cattle because of concern that the "mad cow" disease could harm French consumers.

The French decision, if fully effective, would wipe out a trade worth £183 million a year, just over half of Britain's total worldwide earnings from the export of beef and live cattle. It is a further blow to the Government's efforts to convince its own public that beef is safe to eat.

"The French action is unwarranted, unjustified and contrary to European Community law," Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, said. "It undermines the whole basis of trading between partners, which must be based on mutual recognition of Community institutions and expert scientific advice."

Mr Gummer said that he had written to the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Raymond MacSharry, asking for an immediate ruling that the French action was illegal. "France must understand that such action undermines the ability of other countries to uphold EC law."

"Our scientists say that British beef is safe. The chief medical officer has said that British beef is safe to eat. The Continued on page 20, col 7

Blow for farmers, page 2  
Shellfish ban, page 4

Boaty anglers? Are you crazy?

# Yeltsin threatens independence while Gorbachov is at summit

From RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

MR BORIS Yeltsin, the newly elected president of the Russian Federation and leader of Democratic Russia, yesterday threw down a direct challenge to President Gorbachov by vowing to "turn the pyramid" of Soviet power upside down and to declare Russia sovereign and independent before Mr Gorbachov returns from his summit with President Bush.

Mr Yeltsin called for the resignation of the central government over the economic crisis, and promised the first direct popular elections in Russia within a year. He claimed that Mrs Thatcher had said she was in favour of a "direct treaty" between Britain and Russia provided Russia first declared itself sovereign. "So we have to pass a law on sovereignty," Mr Yeltsin said, adding that Russian laws would take precedence over Soviet laws.

"This is a declaration of war on Gorbachov while he is out of the country," one deputy said. Mr Yeltsin outlined an astonishing programme for achieving a free and democratic Russia in his first 100 days in power. He said Russia would take control of its own natural resources, including

oil, gas and petroleum products, and would co-ordinate energy deals with other republics including Lithuania, with a gradual transfer to world price levels. Lithuania is currently enduring an economic blockade imposed by Mr Gorbachov after its own declaration of independence.

Mr Yeltsin has to get his revolutionary programme through the Russian parliament, which resumes today after a day of negotiations on a coalition between Democratic Russia and the Communists. Mr Yeltsin said power sharing had not been seen in Russia since the 1920s. "We are using the vocabulary of the Western democracies, although no doubt we will find our own word for coalition," he said.

Some of Mr Yeltsin's own supporters were staggered by his 100-days programme. "He's gone too far," one Muscovite said, agitated. "Gorbachov will use this to paint him as a dangerous extremist." Deputies warned that Mr Yeltsin and his supporters still had to contend with the conservative party apparatus, which is smarting at its failure to block his comeback. It is also not clear whether ministries at the

republican or Unio level would carry out such radical measures.

But Mr Yeltsin yesterday swept talk of sabotage aside. He said the parliament would vote on a "decree on power", enshrining Russian independence and defining Russia's relationship with other republics and the rest of the world. He insisted the Unio would not dissolve but would be strengthened if the republics were genuinely independent, and he strongly denied that he favoured a Russian republic army. He said some "strategic matters" such as defence and even some economic and social issues would remain in the hands of central government. But Russia would have its own press and television, and would establish Russian consulates abroad, beginning with "our neighbours". He lambasted the "weak" Soviet Foreign Ministry, saying it "does nothing but issue exit visas".

Mr Yeltsin launched a scathing attack on the central government's plan for a market economy, saying it was "tantamount to suicide" by the Gorbachov leadership. The plan was "extremely unpopular and impractical" because it had focused prematurely on price rises. There were "other mechanisms" for a market economy which would not lower living standards.

On his relations with Mr Gorbachov, which he had earlier said he hoped would be "businesslike", Mr Yeltsin said he hoped their personal animosity would be put on one side. But there were no "big presidents and smaller presidents". In Russia power would be given to the individual for the first time after years of dictatorship, even if this meant regions within Russia seeking autonomy. Told that Mr Gorbachov had attacked him for not using the word "socialism", Mr Yeltsin said the word had so many definitions it was completely meaningless. The only real aim was to create a system in which people could "live better and feel truly free".

Mr Yeltsin said the word "capitalism" was equally meaningless, because the US, the leading capitalist nation, had not led to the impoverishment of the working classes, as Marx had predicted.

Rearguard fight, page 8  
Gorbachov arrival, page 20

## Fresh ERM hope boosts shares

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

SHARE prices and the pound rose strongly yesterday on renewed speculation that Britain would soon link its currency to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The FT-SE 100 index closed up 50.6 points at 2,346.2 and gilt-edged stocks were 2½ higher after rising 1½ earlier.

Sterling rose above \$3.70 for the first time since the start of April but closed a little changed at \$1.6940. Against the mark it was up 1½ pence at DM2.8442 leaving the Bank of England's effective rate index up 0.5 at 89.4.

The Chancellor, Mr John Major, who was in Paris for a meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said the conditions the Government had set for Britain's entry to the ERM remained the same. But he repeated that Britain's underlying inflation rate was

closer to the European average than the retail price index suggested.

Mr Major said he did not think the pound had reached "unsustainable" levels. It was still 2 per cent below the level at which interest rates were last raised. He gave a warning that, if necessary, he would not hesitate to raise interest rates.

New economic forecasts from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research suggest that if Britain joins the ERM, allowing interest rates to fall, the published rate of inflation could fall to below 5 per cent by the end of next year.

The institute also predicts a fall in the balance of payments deficit from £15 billion this year to £9 billion in 1991.

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Markets surge, page 21  
Stock Market, page 26

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF IS BRITAIN'S MOST INTELLIGENT MAN AND A TV PRESENTER. ISN'T THAT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS?

GQ. The men's magazine with an I.Q. June issue out now.







# Divorce law overhaul delayed by framing snag

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for an overhaul of divorce laws in England and Wales have been put back several months, jeopardizing any chance of legislation in the next session of parliament.

The Law Commission, which is still working on its final report, is not now expected to report until September or October because of the difficulties of framing the legislation.

The five commissioners are trying to draw up proposals that must steer a course between those who say that they are making it too easy to obtain a final decree, and those who say it is being made too difficult. Another possible sticking point, family lawyers

## Legal aid scheme amended

THE Legal Aid Board has backed down over some of its proposals for franchising out legal aid under a pilot scheme scheduled to start in July (Frances Gibb writes).

The move comes after a recent decision by the Law Society council to boycott the scheme unless the terms of the experiment were improved.

The board, which runs the £500 million-a-year legal aid scheme, is believed to have agreed concessions that will put before the society council for approval next week.

One concession is to scrap the proposal that solicitors undertaking legal aid under franchise should do so on a monthly basis, calculated on last year's legal aid earnings. Instead, solicitors will be given down-payments of £250 when they grant emergency legal aid certificates, and £150 for a category of legal aid help known as "assistance by way of representation".

For advice ("green form") work, they will be paid after every two-hour period of work. Franchise firms will also get a new system of payment on account for civil legal aid in place of the existing scheme. Under the new system, payments of 75 per cent of costs incurred will be made at nine-monthly intervals.

The board is understood to have dropped its requirements for extra supervision and training. Instead, it will study the procedures in place at Birmingham firms taking part in the pilot scheme. Where they are thought deficient, the board will fund the cost of any extra training or supervision needed. The board has not agreed in the Law Society's request that firms granted franchises should have power to grant civil legal aid.

# Women demand tougher sentences for rape

By LIN JENKINS

THE lingering belief by some members of the judiciary that women "ask for it" was behind inadequate sentences for rape, Mrs Angela Rumbold, Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday.

Mrs Rumbold told a conference on rape held by the Townswomen's Guild at the YWCA in London that it was vital for jail terms to be longer if more victims were to be encouraged to report the crime and to have the courage to see the case through the courts.

She told 180 members of the Guild: "Our society is not going to tolerate rape, because it is a very serious crime."

"Until we get tough sentencing we are not going to realise how much society condones it. The lurking feeling behind the sentencing is that women are actually asking for it. Some people take the view that no woman was ever raped; she merely changed her mind afterwards," she said.

Mrs Rumbold said that the police have improved procedures for dealing with rape victims, but the possibility of training court officials and barristers, to help them understand the women's ordeal, should also be looked at.

Miss Jo Richardson, the Labour spokeswoman on women's affairs, said rape victims were being let down by the legal system. In 1988 only 1,103 of the 2,855 reported rapes reached criminal proceedings, and just over a third resulted in a conviction.

"That assumes that the other two thirds of women were lying, and I don't believe that women who go to these lengths are lying. There is something very, very wrong in a system which produces this sort of result," she said.

Inspector Alwyn McWilliam, of Bedfordshire police, called for changes which would allow victims to be interviewed on video, and cross-examined within weeks or months of the attack, rather than having to appear in court, sometimes years later.

"Some of these recommendations are already being looked at in regard to children giving evidence. It could be that women and other vulnerable witness could be treated in the same way. It is something worth working towards," she said.

Mrs Rosemary Ballster, chairman of the rape conference and vice chairman of the Townswomen's Guild, said that the moment had been written by the Lord Chief Justice five times without success, and had lobbied successive Home Secretaries for a change in the law.

"All rapists should serve a minimum of 10 years in jail. However, we do realise that prison is a university for criminals, and feel they should have counselling, treatment or whatever is needed for them to realise what a woman is," she said.



Time off for a dancer from Papua New Guinea from dress rehearsals yesterday in Gunnersbury Park, west London. The dancing group is on a European tour

## Used cars dangerous 'in 60% of cases'

THREE out of five vehicles bought from used car dealers by Strathclyde regional council's consumer and trading standards department were found to be too dangerous to drive.

The cars, bought for between £500 and £600, were taken direct from the dealers' premises to a Ministry of Transport testing station. Only one of the vehicles passed inspection in spite of the fact that all the cars were sold with a current MOT certificate.

Between five and seven significant faults were found on the three worst cars, including problems with steering, suspension, brakes and exhausts. One had serious corrosion on the seat belt anchorage point.

Other problems found by the examiners included a battery that was only prevented from short circuiting and causing an electrical fire by a rubber mat placed between it and the bonnet, a bulging tyre and a radiator ready to break loose from its mountings.

The cars in the investigation were sold by the dealers to "young couples" for immediate use, being variously described as "good condition" and "good, badly and mechanically".

Mr Ron Robertson, Strathclyde's assistant director of trading standards, said: "Anyone buying a car in this price range should protect themselves, and others, by insisting on the issue of a new MOT certificate as a condition of sale." Successful prosecutions have been brought against three dealers.

A prize-winning Mini turned out to be a rotting wreck, Bradford magistrates were told. The 10-year-old custom car won a Mini owners' club trophy just four months before its new owner found potentially life-threatening defects. Stephen Brown, aged 22, of Princess Crescent, Bradford, was fined £200 when he admitted selling the car in an unroadworthy state.

## Scientist sought detective role in Maguire case

By JOHN YOUNG

A FORMER government scientist said yesterday that he would have liked to adopt the role of a detective in determining the validity of laboratory tests carried out in 1974, on the basis of which Mrs Annie Maguire and others were convicted of running an IRA bomb factory in London.

Dr Thomas Hayes, who joined the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, in Woolwich, south-east London, in July 1974, was giving evidence to the inquiry under Sir John Hay into the case in which the defendants were jailed for between nine and 14 years. Dr Hayes said that he had resigned from the establishment in April last year but had stayed on as a consultant to help with the investigation into the Lockerbie air disaster.

Dr Hayes was asked about a critique he had made of a recent report by Professor Duncan Thornburn Burns. In his report, Professor Burns described test results which showed that nitro-glycerine could easily get under fingernails, that significant traces could be picked up from a towel, and that a contaminated hand rifling through a drawer of gloves instantly contaminated the gloves.

Sir John asked Dr Hayes whether, in making his critique, he was not in effect constituting himself as a scientific detective by going back in 1974 and asking what the Maguires might or might not have done. "Are you really just looking at a scientific experiment?" It was vital to establish that.

Dr Hayes replied: "I would like to adopt the role of detective." He was concerned about whether the experiment tests that had been done were sufficient for him to make an interpretation of the earlier tests.

Sir John: "They were strange results in relation to the Maguires."

Dr Hayes: "Strange in the sense that they were clearly most unusual because of the number that occurred at the same time."

Sir John: "They need some explanation, don't they?" Dr Hayes: "They certainly do."

Questioned by Mr Neil Butterfield, QC, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, Dr Hayes said that he had considerable experience in working with dogs trained to detect explosives. He was sure that if large quantities of explosives had been in the Maguire house shortly before the police arrived, as was alleged during the trial, the dogs would have detected it.

The hearing continues today.

# Courts may be overwhelmed by poll tax defaulters

By DAVID SAPSTED

SUMMONSES against more than 2.6 million people in conurbations are expected to be issued for non-payment of the poll tax in a move that threatens to clog magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

There are fears of an unprecedented number of court actions as the level of defaulters "settles down" to 20 per cent of the adult population in metropolitan areas, where non-payment is running at about 35 per cent at the moment. Hundreds of thousands of people are also facing action by district councils of the shire counties.

In metropolitan areas, about 10 per cent of the total community charge liability has been collected, roughly the same as at this time last year under the rating system. "The problem is that, even if the same percentage of people fail to pay as last year, the total facing summonses will be twice as high because there are double the number of people liable for poll tax," the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said.

The extent of the problem is illustrated in South Tyneside, where the 12,000 summonses expected to be issued over the next fortnight among the 119,000 poll tax payers compare with 2,100 summonses issued over the same period last year among 66,000 rate-payers, including 29,000 council tenants.

Mr Brian Forster, president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said: "There is a possibility that a lot of extra court time will be used up. At the moment, though, we don't know how many people will simply pay up when they receive summonses." Many people in rate-capped areas are waiting to see if their bills will be reduced.

The first prosecutions will be heard on the Isle of Wight tomorrow, when the Conservative-controlled Medina District Council will bring actions against 3,800 non-payers. Most of the cases are expected to have been settled beforehand but some, including that of the television sports presenter and Green Party activist David Icke, seem likely to result in lengthy arguments.

Those who do not pay face having a liability order issued against them, which means their salaries or benefits can be docked or bailiffs sent in to seize household goods.

The Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils said yesterday that many of its 300-plus members had not issued summonses because of administrative problems the community charge had created. "Most computer programmes are simply not up to the task."

The Home Office said last night: "We are aware of the fears that exist. The question of the pressure of workload will be tackled when and if it becomes a problem."

● A schoolteacher who led a

violent anti-poll tax riot at Norwich City hall was yesterday fined £250 with £30 costs.

Stefan Simms, of Grange Road, Norwich, shouted "break the door, ignore the law" through a megaphone as he urged a thousand-strong mob to break into the council chamber causing £10,000 worth of damage, Norwich magistrates heard.

Simms, who admitted using threatening behaviour, is suspended on full pay from the Heartsease comprehensive school where he teaches science.

## Poll tax sheriffs thwarted

By KERRY GILL

HUNDREDS of anti-poll tax protesters yesterday formed a human barricade to prevent sheriff officers entering the home of a woman in Paisley, Scotland, to impound her possessions.

On a day that stretched the campaign tactics of Mr Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, an attempt to carry out the first pointing — assessment of a debtors goods liable for sale against a debt — in the Strathclyde region failed. The two officers arrived at the home of Mrs Patricia Ross, aged 40, after a demonstration lasting seven hours. Faced with a mass of protesters, some brought in from around Glasgow, they stood for several minutes and then retreated, in spite of a police escort.

Mr Sheridan, whose supporters had sealed off part of the housing estate with 50 pickets, claimed victory. "This is now a sheriff officer and poll tax free zone. We have successfully built a new wing of our campaign. If they can't force entry to one single woman's home, they will never succeed with the other 400,000 non-payers."

Mrs Ross, a divorcee with a son aged 16, said: "I don't agree with the poll tax. I don't agree with the system, and this has shown that no-one else here does." In fact, Mrs Ross's £118 bill was for unpaid rates dating from 1988/89, but Mr Sheridan said the principle was the same. "We are here to stop any warrant sales or pointings. This is a major victory for our campaign."

Mrs Maureen Robertson, in nearby Findhorn Avenue, Paisley, was also waiting for officers to assess goods against her outstanding poll tax bill of £90. The officers met a similar barricade there as well, and gave up.

Last night, pickets remained on duty on the estate in case the sheriff officers returned.

## Sitting test for bus shelter

THE bus shelter which will replace London's estimated 10,000 ageing and vandalized shelters being given its first showing yesterday. Sampling its comfort is its designer, Mr Kenneth Grange, of Pentagram, the British company which designed InterCity trains, the Kenwood Chef, parking meters, and the new Parker pens (Michael Dwyer writes).

Plans to replace the old shelters were unveiled by Mr Wilfrid Newton, the chairman and chief executive of London Regional Transport. The new designer versions will each cost up to £6,000 and will have optional matching benches, bins, seats and signs.

The first of the new shelters, which are supplied free to local authorities, will appear in July, and will be installed, maintained and cleaned by Adshel, the main supplier of bus shelters.

The shelters are made from robust materials designed to deter vandals, including 10mm reinforced glass, and will be equipped with night-time illumination to provide a safer "waiting environment" for bus passengers.



## Boredom and boys cut Girl Guide rolls

By ALAN HAMILTON

NEW and more fashionable uniforms notwithstanding, the Girl Guide movement is suffering from the excitement factor. There is, in a word, not enough of it.

The Girl Guides Association wants to recruit up to 30,000 more adult Guiders in the hope of stemming the high drop-out rate of members when they reach the age of 12, a moment in young female life when other interests begin to intrude. Despite a new influx of young Rainbow Guides, membership of the movement as a whole in Britain fell by 2 per cent last year.

What girls want, according to senior officials, is camping, canoeing and

other bracing sports, but there are at present simply not enough adults to supervise the demand for expeditions. Guides therefore tend to succumb to the alternative pressures of increased homework, or boys.

Dr June Paterson-Brown, the outgoing Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, told the association's annual general meeting in London yesterday that the movement had no intention of countering the decline in membership by admitting boys, despite the Scout Association's recent decision to open its lists to girls.

"At a time when more and more equal opportunities — and especially opportunities for leadership — are being offered to women, we believe

that the provision of specialized help for girls is more important than ever. We wouldn't begin to know how to help boys but, after 80 years, we do think we know something about helping girls," Dr Paterson-Brown said.

Princess Margaret, president of the Girl Guides Association, told the meeting, attended by 700 Guiders in their old-style blue uniform, that the Guides continued to be a powerful influence on the lives of girls and young women in this country. An irony of the declining membership, though, is that girls are queuing up to join, but have to be turned away because of the shortage of Guiders. There are about 700,000 Guiders in

Britain, and 8 million throughout the world.

In an effort to attract more Guiders, the association has rewritten its rule book and has abandoned some of its traditional guidelines on the conduct of Guide activities. Maximum ages for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been relaxed, and girls may now in theory remain in each division as long as they wish.

Mr Garth Morrison, the Chief Scout, the guest speaker, said the youth movements were important in combating drug-taking. "Young people take drugs because they make them feel good. Our task is to put in their way alternatives that will make them feel equally good."

## Summer in Britain COUNTRY LIFE



Summer in Britain

- Prospects for polo this season
  - Mark Girouard on the political passions that built a Lincolnshire town
  - The Yorkshire school that has been turned back into a private country house
  - Critics' choice of events that must not be missed this summer
- Plus the usual informed coverage of gardens, wildlife, sport, architecture, collecting, the countryside, farming, fashion, property and the arts.

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# Dioceses start consultations on ordination of women priests



Bishop Coleman: "Time for reassessment"

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

ONE of the widest processes of consultation in the Church of England's recent history starts officially today with the formal reference to the 44 dioceses of the measure to permit women to be ordained as priests.

The consultation ends on November 30 next year, and the fate of the measure depends on a majority of diocesan synods accepting it. If they do, it will come to the General Synod for its final approval in 1992, requiring two-thirds majorities in each of the three synodical houses. Before

then, however, diocesan officers are being urged to ensure that the issues are discussed in the hundreds of deanery synods and thousands of parishes which form the base of the pyramid of synodical government in the Church of England. Only when those local discussions have been completed will the diocesan synods themselves meet to record a formal verdict, in the light of them.

The terms of the formal reference to the dioceses have been agreed by the standing committee of the General Synod. Each diocesan synod will have to address itself to a standard resolution, which states that "this synod

approves the proposals embodied in the draft Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Canon 4b (Of Women Priests) and draft Amending Canon No 13". The two changes to canon law are to implement the legislation contained in the measure, for instance, by making it clear that priests can be of either sex.

The standing committee recommends that deanery synods should also have an opportunity to debate an identical motion, though diocesan synods are not necessarily bound to abide by deanery decisions. Parish discussion should also be encouraged, the committee says. To assist the debates, the

standing committee is also publishing today a summary of the arguments on both sides, in the form of a digest written by the Bishop of Crediton, the Right Rev Peter Coleman, based on an earlier longer document from the House of Bishops. This is available to be ordered in bulk by dioceses and deaneries.

The bishop points out in his introduction that though the measure to permit women priests has received majorities in the General Synod, "previous patterns of voting need not constrain us. It is time for a fresh assessment, taking seriously the shape of the arguments and their cogency as they are

now perceived, and weighing carefully the safeguards proposed for those whose conscientious objection needs respect."

His digest is accompanied by the text of the measure itself and the related draft canons, and also by the text of the Ordination of Women (Financial Provisions) Measure, which enables payments to be made from church funds to clergy who resign because of their conscientious opposition to women priests. That measure, though arising from the main one, is not subject to diocesan approval though the dioceses are asked to take it into account. Similarly, they are asked to bear in mind a draft

code of practice. To be carried in each diocesan synod, the standard resolution will have to be approved both by the majority of the clergy and of the laity, voting separately. The suffragan and diocesan bishops of the diocese, who make up the diocesan House of Bishops, may also record their votes, but that will not affect the outcome. It is unlikely that any diocesan synod will have met to debate the standard resolution before the end of this year.

Reference of Draft Legislation: Digest by the Bishop of Crediton (Church House Publishing, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, £1.50 each)

## Doctors 'ignoring' infection dangers from used needles

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association yesterday accused doctors of deplorable complacency towards the risks of injury from needles, scalpels and other medical equipment that could be contaminated with potentially fatal infections.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional division, said: "Doctors have become careless, because of the ready availability of antibiotics to treat some infections, but now need to take the risks more seriously."

Health service staff, particularly medical students, should not be exposed to the hazards of blood-borne infection by the viruses that cause Aids, hepatitis and many other diseases, Dr Dawson said.

In a report, published today, the association calls for better training in the safe use and disposal of sharp instruments. The report lists 34 cases

the problem of infection was thought to have been almost resolved by vaccines and antibiotics," the report says. "Hospital beds for infectious diseases were closed, and specialist posts were discontinued. Medical microbiology assumed less importance. Today, the medical profession and the public are again aware, and indeed alarmed, of the dangers of infection."

These include salmonella food poisoning, Legionnaires' disease and Aids, while new infections are appearing in patients whose resistance has been lowered by cancer treatments, transplant operations, or disease, the report says.

The document emphasizes the importance of complementary training in clinical and laboratory medicine for those wishing to adopt a career in infectious diseases. "We re-

alize that the implementation of our recommendations will require increased resources, including new posts," it says. "However, we feel that it is important to start by providing suitable training for the increasing number of able young doctors who appreciate that the speciality of infectious diseases is important and exciting."

This would enhance the practice of the speciality both in hospital and community medicine.

A Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps (British Medical Association, PO Box 295, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, £4.95). Training in Infectious Diseases (Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE, £5)

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## Battle for Aids funds in Ireland

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of Irish people who are HIV positive have gone to London in search of adequate counselling, treatment and social service facilities, the Irish Family Planning Association said yesterday.

Mr Frank Vaughan, the association's education and resource officer in Dublin, put the numbers of HIV positive Irish people living in London at more than 1,000 — more than all those known to be carrying the virus throughout Ireland.

Research at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, carried out two years ago, gave an insight into the probable scale of the problem today, Mr Vaughan said. Researchers found then that 30 per cent of intravenous drug users being treated at the hospital were HIV positive and that 44 per cent of those came from Dublin.

Mr Vaughan is campaigning for increased Irish government funds for medical facilities for Aids and publicity programmes. "Politicians are blinding themselves to what is patently obvious," he said. Official statistics indicate that 948 people are known to be carrying HIV and that there have been 146 recorded cases of Aids of whom 63 have died.

However, those figures are believed to underestimate the problem and the true figure for those carrying HIV could be as high as 2,500.

The Irish Government has launched information programmes on television and radio, and is to distribute pamphlets on Aids to schools in September. Critics say, however, that apart from the pamphlets, almost nothing has been done since 1987. "Most of the Irish public probably think Aids is a phenomenon which only occurred in 1987 and has gone away," Mr Vaughan said. He and other pressure groups hope a documentary to be shown on Irish television this evening will spur the Government into action.

The documentary, "Stories from Silence", which chronicles the lives of Irish people with HIV and Aids, was produced by two independent companies who gave their services free, allowing the film to be produced at a fraction of the £70,000 commercial cost. Mr Martin Byrne, aged 23, who became HIV positive after treatment for haemophilia, says in the film: "I don't think the problem is ever going to get through to the Government because it is so pig-headed."

## Art for a company's HQ

PETER TRIVINOR



Last polish for Judith Black's steel and laminate sculpture "Gulls" before today's official unveiling at the Rank Xerox headquarters at Marlow, Buckinghamshire

## Woodland roads attacked

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by the Department of Transport to drive new roads through two of Britain's most valuable ancient woodlands were condemned yesterday by the Nature Conservancy Council, the Government's own advisory body on the countryside.

The two woodlands have been declared Sites of Special Scientific Interest by the council because of the rare species of trees, plants and animals they contain. Birkham Woods in the path of the Knaresborough-Harrogate bypass in Yorkshire, and Oxleas Wood in south-east London, stands in the way of the

proposed east London river crossing. Mr Timothy Horroby, the council's director-general, accused Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, of being "totally obtuse in crashing ahead with and completing these links".

At Oxleas, he said, the Government had rejected the option of a "cut and cover" tunnel recommended by the inquiry inspector, because it would have cost more money. The council yesterday launched an appeal to preserve Britain's shrinking acreage of ancient woodland, much of which dates back to

the Middle Ages and beyond. "Many wild flowers, birds, invertebrates, and primitive plants, such as mosses and lichens, are mostly confined to ancient woods", Sir William Wilkinson, the council's chairman, said.

In 1945 ancient woods, defined as those which have existed continuously since at least 1600, covered about 1,250,000 acres. Since then 10 per cent has been destroyed, mainly for agricultural clearance, and 30 per cent has been replaced by conifer plantations. Of the rest, only about 10 per cent is traditionally managed.

## London traffic 'is driving business away'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GLARING deficiencies in London's transport system are damaging the City's commercial competitiveness and jeopardizing its position as the leading European financial centre, according to a report published yesterday.

Big corporations are looking critically at the City, because of the congestion costs, when considering where to set up headquarters. While London appears uncertain over its future, "the confidence projected by some European competitors presents an altogether different image", the report by a firm of management consultants for the City of London says. With such cities as Paris and Frankfurt promoting themselves aggressively, the challenge to London is real, it adds.

The consultants, Segal Quince and Wickstead, call for much greater investment in rail services, backed up by the rapid introduction of road priority routes and tougher parking controls. Pay-as-you-drive road-pricing schemes were seen as essential in the long-term, but should not be contemplated until rail services were improved sufficiently to give people a genuine choice. Twenty-year planning should replace the present piecemeal approach.

The report also calls for a prompt decision on the £3 billion rail link between London and Folkestone, approval for the £1.5 billion East-West Crossrail between Liverpool Street and Paddington, in preference to the proposed Chelsea-Hackney line, and further improvements in British Rail's Thameslink service.

Sir Hugh Bidwell, the Lord Mayor of London, launched the report yesterday saying: "Without a significant increase in rail capacity, there is little hope for substantial improvement in road conditions. We must not allow London to be left behind as we enter the single market. Three out of five senior City managers regard that state of London road traffic as being an acute or serious problem, and half of them put the state of the Underground in the same category. The need for action is not in doubt."

The conclusions of the £110,000 report, *London's Transport: A Plan To Protect The Future*, contrast sharply with recent statements made by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, who maintains the threat

of congestion to London's future has been exaggerated. However, while accepting that congestion is endemic in cities throughout much of western Europe, the report insists that such arguments are potentially destructive of London's greatness.

"Economic decline is long-term and gradual, and many years could pass before it could be unequivocally established to be taking place. Equally, once under way it would take a long time to be arrested and reversed. There is evidence of large corporations looking critically at London as a major base as a result of congestion costs, and the eastward shift in Europe's centre of gravity."

Government plans to invest £5.8 billion in improving the road and rail network were described as impressive, and "a huge increase relative to the early 1980s". They remained, though, "a statement of intentions", vulnerable to financial cuts, and were insufficient to meet demand.

The Cambridge-based consultants recommend that the burden of paying for new transport infrastructure should be spread more widely and fairly by including "not only users but other beneficiaries such as local employers and owners, developers and users of land".

*London's Transport: A Plan To Protect The Future* (Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ; free)

## British aid for space telescope

British scientists are playing a leading role in a project starting tomorrow in a neglected area of astronomical research (Pearce Wright writes).

Work is planned to start with the launch of a 24-ton observatory from Cape Canaveral space centre, Florida. The spacecraft, called the Rosat (Roentgen satellite) X-ray Astronomy observatory, is a collaborative venture between the United States, Britain and West Germany.

Its instruments include equipment conceived by scientists under Professor Ken Pounds, of Leicester University, who have pioneered methods of detecting the radiation from stars and galaxies of beams of X-rays that cannot be "seen" by Earth telescopes.

## MPs seek action against farmers polluting rivers

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TOUGHER line should be taken against farmers who pollute rivers and water supplies, an all-party committee of MPs recommends today. A report by the Committee of Public Accounts says that of 900 serious pollution incidents in 1988 in England and Wales, only 148 resulted in convictions. "We are disturbed that the 'polluter pays' principle is not being effectively applied," the MPs say.

"We note the ministry's concern over farmers' ability to pay for waste control measures and ministers' views that the courts are not playing their full part. We therefore urge the ministry to work closely with the National Rivers Authority to ensure that grant aid is complemented by their firm line on prosecutions."

The report charts an average 12 per cent annual increase in farm-related pollution over the 10 years to 1988 in England and Wales as changes in agricultural practice generated more liquid waste. "While some of the increase may have been due to increased reporting, the number of incidents seemed to be rising," the MPs say.

They welcome, however, the steps the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is now taking to monitor

the effects of the £50 million anti-pollution programme planned for the next three years. The report also urges the ministry and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland to adopt a more rigorous approach to assessing the effects of capital grants on farm incomes.

The MPs express particular concern about the farm diversification grant scheme set up in 1988 to encourage farmers to broaden their sources of income by branching out into non-agricultural businesses on their land. "We are concerned that payments may be made against projects of doubtful viability, or against those that would go ahead without grant support," they say.

*Grants to aid the Structure of Agriculture in Great Britain*, Committee of Public Accounts, (House of Commons Paper 150, Stationery Office, £5.85)

● All fish and insect life has been killed off in a tributary of the Derwent for at least a year because two farmers allowed highly toxic waste to drain into it, magistrates at Selby, North Yorkshire, were told yesterday. Peter Fox and his son David, of Kexby Stray Farm, Elvington, near York, admitted allowing cow slurry to pollute the river and were each fined £250 and ordered to share £173 costs.

## £300m bill for coastal clean-up

By RONALD FAUX

RESTORATION of Britain's north-west coastline to a European standard of cleanliness would take five years and cost more than £300 million, local authorities around the Fylde coast, Lancashire, were told yesterday.

The meeting with officials of North West Water and the National Rivers Authority was held in the shadow of the European Commission's decision to prosecute Britain for the filthy condition of some beaches in the region. Mr Dennis Clegg, head of planning for North West Water, said firm proposals would be prepared by the end of the year. Provided they were acceptable, and the planning issues attached had been resolved, the new sewage treatment plants could be in service by the mid 1990s.

Every day 40 million gallons of waste water and raw sewage is discharged on the tide from the Fylde coast into the Irish Sea. The standards demanded by Europe will add £30 million to the cost of treating waste that pours from an eight-mile stretch of coastline between the Lancashire towns of Blackpool and Fleetwood.

The cost of bringing this stretch of coastline alone up to standard would total more than £100 million, and beaches along a coastline of more than 300 miles have been judged to have unacceptable levels of pollution.

## Shellfish ban angers fishermen

By PETER DAVENPORT

IN THE Harbour Bar of the Golden Ball public house on the Scarborough seafront yesterday Mr John Mainprize was taking his lunch break in a depressed mood after a morning lifting lobster pots from the North Sea.

He had steered his blue-and-white painted cobbie John Boy from the harbour mouth at 5am and by the time he returned, seven hours later, his haul consisted of 20 lobsters and four stone of crabs. It was only an average catch but normally they would have been on their way to local seafood stalls, hotels and restaurants by lunchtime.

Instead, the catch yesterday was being kept alive in special holding tanks for there was simply no market for the product of Mr Mainprize's work or those of 30 other small boats who earn their living harvesting a 20-mile stretch of the sea, three miles off Scarborough, for lobsters and crabs in an industry worth £1 million a year to the town.

It was a similar story yesterday all along the North-east coast where the multi-million pound industry has been devastated by the government warning to the people not to eat shellfish and crustaceans caught between the Humber and Montrose in Scotland.

Mr Mainprize, aged 50, is the chairman of the Scarborough Inshore Fishermen's Association. The 30 boats, with 60 men working them, normally land up to 400 lobsters and 100 stone of crabs a day. He and his colleagues are angry with the Govern-

ment, accusing it of mishandling the situation by issuing a blanket health warning against all shellfish based on insufficient evidence.

The result, they said, was a catastrophic threat to their livelihood. Mr Mainprize, who has been fishing the seas off Scarborough since he was a boy, said: "The first thing we heard about this warning was on the local radio. I contacted the senior Ministry of Agriculture man here in his garden on Saturday morning and he knew nothing about it. The way this has been handled is disgraceful."

Mr Charles Simmons, the managing director of the Scarborough Fishermen's Selling Company, agents for disposing of the daily catch, said that since the warning five days ago trade had virtually ground to a standstill. "The public

have been brainwashed. It has all been a ghastly mistake and something needs doing quickly. We are all awaiting the results of tests being made by the Ministry of Agriculture."

The health warning that has led to concern in the shellfish industry, which employs several hundred fishermen along the North-east coast, came after a routine sampling. High levels of a toxin that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning were found in some mussels. The highest level, 50 times greater than that at which action has to be initiated, was found in a mussel sample taken from Trow Rocks, off South Tyneside.

The toxin comes from the algae, dinoflagellates, which flourishes in sunny conditions. It is known locally as a "red sea" and can attack the

central nervous system leading to paralysis and even death. The algae bloom was affecting the sea between Redcar and Berwick upon Tweed.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that there had been 40 outbreaks since 1814, the largest and most recent in 1968, when 78 people fell ill after eating locally caught mussels. Yesterday officials at the Department of Health in London met to consider whether a ban on swimming should be imposed off the North-east coast in the area of the algae bloom, but decided that there was no risk to swimmers and bathers.

A spokesman said, however, that the warning not to eat shellfish or crustaceans caught off the North-east coast was still in effect. Marine scientists at the Ministry of Agriculture laboratories at Weymouth in Dorset were yesterday analysing samples of shellfish from the North-east ports for any traces of the toxin. Results are expected today.

Yesterday the beach and seafront at Scarborough was busy with families taking their children to the resort for school half-term holidays. The ranks of dressed crabs, lobsters and shellfish, however, remained undisturbed.

● Rofton Galvanising, a metal processing firm in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, is facing prosecution by the National Rivers Authority after a tanker spilled 4,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid into the river Dibbin yesterday.

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Mr John Semper, of South Gare, near Redcar, one of the North-east fishermen facing a bleak future



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# Alienated youth of Shanghai marks a massacre in silence

From OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SHANGHAI

THE trombones of Shanghai's best jazz band are getting into the evening swing at the old Cathay Hotel, a relic of opulent times when Noel Coward once lingered, when the activity starts across the road on the Bund.

Young men and women, wearing the jeans and T-shirts universal to the disaffected youth of the communist world, gather on the celebrated promenade along the Huangpu river. At the spot where once stood the statue of Sir Harry Parkes, Minister Plenipotentiary, a song by New Kids on the Block, the latest American teen band, crackles from a radio cassette player. Money changes hands for tapes and electronic gadgets from Hong Kong. The mood is sullen, matched by the drizzle and the grey facades of the old banks and clubs of the International Settlement, remnants of the one-time "city of joy, gin and jazz". A similar crowd of "marginals" used to hang around Gorky Park in Mos-

cow in the days of the late Brezhnev, Andropov and then Chernenko.

"There's no future here," says Ken, aged 19, a student. He drops his voice as six policemen, all with AK-47 rifles slung across their chests, march past. "They're out to stop any trouble this week, but there won't be," says a companion, who says he has nothing to do with the petty dealing going on around. "People are not stupid. They are waiting, they've gone back to living and getting on with studies, so that they can go abroad. You don't want to mess up your life for nothing."

Nervousness on the eve of the June 4 anniversary has prompted the police to go in for a little "spring cleaning", as they put it - enforcing public order and encouraging earlier closing in the cafes and nightspots that have never been eradicated as a Shanghai speciality since the days when the British Club boasted the world's longest bar (the club's vast marble hall on the Bund is now partially occupied by a Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment). From the disaffected youths to the businessmen who have lost out on foreign investment, the mood in Shanghai, China's highest heart of the country, is one of weary resignation as the country lives silently through the anniversary of the Peking massacre.

Through the home of the communist movement and the Red Guards of the cultural revolution, Shanghai is at heart a merchant town. Last June, it suffered less physical trauma than Peking with its Tiananmen massacre. The worst violence was the storming of a runaway train, an incident which officially killed

six, and which led to the executions of three protesters. The Shanghai workers never threw in their lot with the students as they did in the capital, and Mr Zhu Rongji, the mayor and local Communist Party chief, shrewdly neutralized potential public support by recruiting factory personnel to keep order.

But residents say the lack of visible fervour belied a sympathy for the students that turned into bitterness and alienation when Peking sent in the tanks. "You have to remember this is the best educated city in China," says one local office manager. "People knew exactly what happened in Tiananmen Square. They know exactly what has happened in East Europe. They are getting on with life, but they are disgusted and sad. You won't find anyone under 35 with any education who has not totally rejected the system," says the manager, who is 40. The 1989 crackdown, he says, is producing an "alienated generation", just as the cultural revolution of the late 1960s produced the "lost generation" which was deprived of a university education.

Out on the drab campus of Fudan University, the talk is much the same, though highly guarded. Arrests, indoctrination, the danger of denunciation and enforced military service have cowed all but the most rebellious. But it has not stopped defiance. In April, on the anniversary of the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed party leader, students banged for half an hour on metal rice bowls, a daring protest by current standards. It is rumoured that fire-crackers are being collected for the night of June 3.

Dissent in the local universities has also led to satire such as the over-reverent parodying of the official version about rebellious hoodlums, and the festooning of dormitory walls with portraits of Mao. "They can't punish us for too much fervour," says one student, "even though they know it's intended as mockery."

With the reversion to orthodoxy over the past year, a group of older, neo-conservative scholars has risen to prominence. According to one of them, Mr Xiao Gongqin, a history professor at Shanghai Normal University, the students were misguided. "They had a beautiful, adolescent dream. They thought the

Western system was like a jacket that any one could wear."

Though the Shanghai protests led to few deaths, in many ways the shock was as far-reaching as in the more idealistic Peking, because this was the city which had most firmly seized the promise of economic reform and yearned to fight for its old role as the trading nexus of the Asia-Pacific area. Even before the protests, the optimism was turning sour under the impact of an austerity programme that was affecting living standards.

"There is a sense of Shanghai having lost out very badly,

because so much of its future was based on enormous amounts of foreign investment," said a local diplomat. Nothing speaks more for the lost hopes than the dozen or so modern towers, surrounded by bamboo scaffolding and unfinished, which have risen above the lanes and streets of the old city. They are unlikely to find many foreign tenants.

The foreign money has not dried up, but it slowed by about 40 per cent, triggered most of all by the Americans. Only the Taiwanese are eager to place their money in the once sought-after joint ventures. Even the Japanese, according to local business-

men, are sensing the potential instability and American retaliation, and holding back their yen. Pudong is an ambitious scheme just launched by Peking, to conjure an industrial port city out of the Yangtze swamplands in east Shanghai. Billions of foreign dollars will be needed. Foreign businessmen here see Pudong as something of a dramatic gesture by Peking, to signal their commitment to the open door, despite the political clampdown. Much will hinge on whether the World Bank decides to relax its restrictions and advance a big loan.

Locally, the Shanghai cadres have been making no

secret of their concern for their country's pariah status. Herr Heinz Schwander, the Swiss manager of the new Hilton hotel, the city's top spot for foreign businessmen, says officials ask his advice on how to lure back visitors. "We're in a stagnant period now," says Herr Schwander, whose hotel occupancy rate has dropped from almost 90 per cent to around 60 per cent.

The local government believes that if China can weather the anniversary and the Asian Games in September with no further outbreaks of unrest, then Western business and tourism will return as before, says Herr Schwander.



Show of strength: Soldiers marching across a rain-soaked Tiananmen Square in Peking yesterday as the massacre anniversary approaches

## Malaysia hangings 'barbaric'

The Labour Party yesterday called for a review of British aid and trading with Malaysia after the execution of eight Hong Kong citizens for drug offences (Richard Ford writes).

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, criticized the pre-dawn hangings - carried out despite a plea for clemency from Mrs Thatcher - as "barbaric", and demanded concerted European action against Malaysia.

Mr Andrew Mackay, the Conservative MP for Newbury, said it was a "damn cheek" for Labour to question a Commonwealth friend which had one of the best records in the world for fighting the drugs problem.

## Greece agrees US bases deal

Athens - Greece and the United States concluded a new defence co-operation agreement yesterday, ensuring the continued presence of American military bases on Greek soil for a further eight years (Chris Ehou writes).

The accord was initiated after nearly two years of arduous negotiations and a one-year suspension because of three successive Greek general elections. Its contents, to be signed in four to six weeks' time, will be made public in a fortnight and will remain "classified" until further processing in the US.

## Retired British officer killed

Harare - Heavily armed soldiers shot dead an elderly retired British Army officer after he apparently drove through a barrier scaling off the road outside President Mugabe's official residence from dusk to dawn (Jan Raath writes).

Friends of Bryan Lomax Angel, aged 57, a former Royal Artillery captain, said his car was raked with automatic fire on Sunday night after he "seemed to have missed his turning" and smashed through the barrier, installed in 1982 after an assassination attempt on Mr Mugabe, and patrolled by guards with rocket launchers and automatic weapons.

## Israelis thwart Arab beach raid

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NIZZANIM, ISRAEL

PALESTINIAN guerrillas in small speedboats launched a two-pronged attack on Israeli beaches crowded with holidaymakers yesterday. Israeli soldiers killed four and captured several Palestinians.

No Israelis were reported killed or injured, but thousands were forced off the beaches on Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks holiday, which marks the giving of the Ten Commandments. Police ordered thousands of other residents near the beach to stay at home. Soldiers and armed farmers manned roadblocks from the southern edge of Tel Aviv down the coast to Ashdod. An army spokesman said the attackers were Palestinians but did not identify the faction to which they belonged.

The Israeli armed forces radio said the assailants' main ship came from Libya and the guerrillas planned to kill civilians in Tel Aviv. "It was well planned, but as far as we know totally unsuccessful," an army spokesman said.

The mother ship in the Mediterranean launched several smaller speedboats with guerrillas, according to the armed forces radio. One group landed about 10am on an empty stretch of beach at Nizzanim, 18 miles south of Tel Aviv.

A second boat was captured as it headed for central Israel shortly before that, army officials said, adding that the aim was "to carry out murders

in Tel Aviv". The radio said the mother ship, which had originated in Benghazi, Libya, went on to Port Said on the Suez Canal, and that the Egyptian authorities were notified.

An Israeli who was on the beach near Nizzanim with his family said all the attackers had been killed or captured in just over half an hour.

● BAGHDAD: Arab leaders yesterday vowed to take punitive political and economic action against countries that recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and criticized the Middle East policy of the United States.

But the criticism of Washington for supporting Israel fell short of the tough action that Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organization and other Arab hard-liners had demanded.

Winding up a three-day emergency summit, the Arab leaders also pledged to take united action to ensure that Palestinians get an independent state of their own with the Arab sector of Jerusalem as its capital.

In a joint communiqué, they condemned the US Congress and Senate for supporting Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its "eternal capital".

Sixteen kings, sheikhs and presidents attended the summit, which was boycotted by Syria and Lebanon. Morocco, Algeria and Oman were represented by foreign ministers. (AP)

## Lobbyists behind the scenes give soaps a conscience

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN ONE episode in this season of *Dallas*, the character April Stevens downs a drink with her sister and then declares: "I don't think we should drive. I'll call a cab."

It sounds like a throw-away line, but it is actually the result of the moral transformation of prime time television in America. All of a sudden soap-opera characters are developing a social conscience, a change brought about by a small number of pressure groups set up to persuade television producers and script-writers to incorporate their well-meaning messages into America's favourite television shows.

"The response of the creative community has been overwhelmingly positive," said Dr Jay Winston, director of the Harvard Alcohol Project, which lobbied for April Stevens's line in *Dallas*. Dr Winston has met more than 160 screen-writers and producers in the past two years, and says that references to the dangers of drunk driving have been incorporated in

80 episodes of television series.

"We are asking relatively little," he said. "We were able to convince them that if they each did relatively little, the cumulative effect would save lives - a few lines of dialogue could save lives."

Sometimes, as in the ABC series *Growing Pains*, in which a character was killed in a drink-driving incident, the producers will devote a whole episode to the perils of driving while intoxicated.

But drink driving is not the only moral issue to have its own lobby group. An Environmental Media Association was set up a year ago with the backing of some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including Robert Redford, the ardent "green". Its successes include the conversion of Joey Harris, one of the title characters in the NBC comedy series *My Two Dads*, into a dedicated environmentalist who threw out all the aerosol spray cans in the house.

Joey also lectured his daughter about using poly-

styrene containers, and went to jail for dumping sludge from a polluted beach into the toilets of an oil company's headquarters. "If they are going to treat our world like a toilet," he said, "then I am going to treat their toilets like they treat our world."

A group called Prime Time to End Hunger pushes for inclusion of Third World famine. Planned Parenthood, a voluntary group that provides advice on birth control, recently held a seminar attended by producers and television executives on the theme: "Sending the Message We Want to Send: The Art of Creating Positive Messages in Electronic Media."

"Some people are appalled and some people are not," said Professor Kathryn Montgomery of the University of California at Los Angeles and author of the book *Target: Prime Time, Advocacy Groups and the Struggle Over Entertainment Television*. "But most people are quite surprised that there is that much going on behind the scenes."



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# Communists in rearguard action to curb Yeltsin

FROM RICHARD OWEN, MOSCOW

WITH the Soviet Parliament taking the first steps towards a multi-party system, Communist deputies in the Russian Federation parliament yesterday began a rearguard action to retain their hold on power by limiting the freedom of action of Mr Boris Yeltsin, the federation president.

Mr Yeltsin's powers remain to be tested in the new situation, as does the relationship between his Russian government and the central authorities under President Gorbachov. Mr Gorbachov had first said in Canada that he was "worried" by Mr Yeltsin's victory. Mr Yeltsin, still formally a member of the Communist Party, has long since parted company with orthodox Soviet Communism, advocating radical reforms in a blunt and populist style.

But Mr Gorbachov said before leaving Canada for Washington that Mr Yeltsin had promised to preserve the Soviet Union and that the two men could work together, provided Mr Yeltsin did not "play games". Some of Mr Gorbachov's aides said Mr Yeltsin might even help Mr Gorbachov to force the pace of economic reform and to elaborate a new kind of Soviet Federation to replace the old style centralized Union.

Some of Mr Yeltsin's supporters are sceptical of this new tack, seeing it as a ploy to suffocate the energetic and outspoken Mr Yeltsin by entangling him in bureaucracy. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin chaired a "co-ordinating committee" in St George's Hall in the Kremlin to form a coalition between his Democratic Russia bloc and the Communists, who are more or less evenly divided in strength in the parliament.

Communist deputies proposed that Mr Alexander Vlasov, the Russian Federation Prime Minister who was defeated by Mr Yeltsin on Tuesday, should become deputy President. But the bid failed and Mr Vlasov is likely to remain Prime Minister, on the grounds that this will

provide "political balance". Some Democratic Russia deputies fear that this is a recipe for political paralysis.

The key question is how much power Mr Yeltsin will be able to wield if key ministries remain in Communist hands. Each republic has a structure of ministries subordinate to ministries at the national level. Mr Yeltsin's first task could be to try to remove Russian Republican ministries and departments and give them independent status. But the party apparatus is expected to resist this. A similar tussle is expected over the status of the KGB, which Mr Yeltsin wants to merge with the Interior Ministry security service and perhaps over the formation of a new ministry of justice, as distinct from Soviet - Army.

In the first sign that Mr Yeltsin intends to establish direct Russian relations with other Soviet republics, he yesterday held an "unofficial" meeting with officials from the breakaway republic of Lithuania. Sources said this would be followed by more formal contacts between the Russian Republic and the Baltic republics.

*Pravda* yesterday reported Mr Yeltsin's victory on its front page, but buried in an anonymous article headed "At the Russian Parliament" and gave it second place to the arrival of Mr Gorbachov in Canada. Moscow television, by contrast, gave prominence to his victory and to his promise to "get Russia out of the crisis", quoting his desire to give Russian laws precedence over Soviet laws under his concept of "sovereignty".

*Moscow News* warned this week that "forces of repression" might make a last ditch attempt to "reimpose order", an apparent reference to rumours of a military coup as economic chaos grows and the Communist apparatus' grip on power appears to slip. "We haven't really tasted freedom yet, yet now we are told we must give it up."

Leading article, page 11



Defiant Armenian guerrillas preparing further resistance to the might of the Soviet armed forces in the Nubashen district of Yerevan. Large crowds attended yesterday's funerals for the 22 nationalists killed there at the weekend, but the situation in Yerevan was reported to be calm

## Political posturing to keep up appearances

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN OTTAWA

PRESIDENT Gorbachov said at a news conference here yesterday that Mr Boris Yeltsin had changed his position on a number of key issues before securing the presidency of the Russian Federation. In Moscow, meanwhile, Mr Yeltsin was repeating his election campaign promises of sovereignty for Russia at every level from village to parliament, and of the precedence of the republic's laws over those of the Soviet Union.

At this stage there is bound to be political posturing on both sides, since Mr Gorbachov and Mr Yeltsin have each to keep up appearances. At his news conference here, however, Mr Gorbachov did concede that he could be in for a "difficult time".

How difficult Mr Yeltsin can make life for the Soviet leader depends on the powers he gains with his new post, how he chooses to use them - and how he is able to use them.

On Monday Mr Yeltsin was elected not, strictly speaking, to the presidency of the Russian Federation but to the chairmanship of the presidium

of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet. This used to be little more than a ceremonial post because of the pre-eminence of federal institutions over those of the republic, and because any real residual power belonged to the Communist Party's organizations or to government institutions. The power structure of each republic was analogous to the structure of the central, federal leadership.

That changed in March, when Mr Gorbachov established the new post of Executive President of the Soviet Union and was elected to fill it. Some individual republics have since followed suit, changing their constitutions to give the post of republic president an equivalent measure of power at republic level.

The Russian Federation has not yet done so, but may this week approve the necessary constitutional changes. If it does, Mr Yeltsin would gain the sort of powers with which he would be able to block almost any legislation passed by the central Moscow leader-

ship. His pledge that republic laws should take precedence over union laws suggests that he would be prepared to do just that.

Some members of the central leadership maintain that, when Mr Gorbachov changed the nature of the Soviet presidency, the idea was to have only one president - the federal president - who would strengthen central power. There is a possibility, therefore, that Mr Gorbachov will try to prevent the Russian Federation from changing its constitution to enhance the powers of its presidency.

If Mr Gorbachov were to succeed in this, Mr Yeltsin would be left with a largely ceremonial post. Since, however, Mr Gorbachov could not prevent Mr Yeltsin's election, it is unlikely that he will be able to prevent the Russian Federation from changing its constitution to give Mr Yeltsin additional powers.

Assuming Mr Yeltsin obtains the powers of a new-style executive presidency, he has already said how he would use them: to make all

Russian Federation institutions "independent" of the centre. This is the description of sovereignty he used both during his election campaign and after his appointment on Tuesday.

Mr Gorbachov has described these policies as a recipe for anarchy, whereas Mr Yeltsin says they represent democracy from the grassroots upwards. Until local autonomy starts to take effect, it is impossible to predict whether it will amount to government by consent or will foster existing centrifugal tendencies. It is equally hard to predict how Mr Yeltsin will respond if his powers as republic president were to be effectively annulled.

Even if Mr Yeltsin obtains the constitutional changes necessary to function as executive president of the Russian Federation and his support for local autonomy and self-government can be made to work with and not against the interests of the republic as a whole, he will still face immense difficulties before he can wield real power vis-à-vis Moscow.

## Russians delve into lost world

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

MR BORIS Yeltsin won his remarkable victory this week for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the Gorbachov leadership, deep anxiety over price rises - and his charisma.

But for many Russians yesterday there was one overriding factor: the prospect of a "sovereign" Russia and the freedom, after years of Communist ideology, to assert symbols of Russian nationhood.

Mr Yeltsin made skilful use during his campaign of an overwhelming desire by Russians to express their nationhood and make contact with the "lost world" of pre-revolutionary Russian history. In part this is a response to militant self-assertion by other ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

To some extent, some symbols of Russian nationalism have always been permitted, and Russia and the Soviet Union have sometimes seemed synonymous. During the Second World War, Stalin used the images of great Russian warriors from medieval legend to bolster morale, and in wartime speeches he dropped the phrase "comrades" in favour of "brothers and sisters". Stalin also co-opted the support of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The difference today - especially striking to anyone returning to Moscow after five years' absence - is that Russian symbols are no longer secondary to Communist symbols; they have all but replaced them. The hammer and sickle still flies above the Kremlin, and Lenin's tomb remains an obligatory stop for Soviet visitors to Moscow from the provinces. The party apparatus, although defeated by Mr Yeltsin's Democratic Russia bloc in the Russian parliament, still has its hold on power, not least at the Soviet level.

But almost all the once-dominant Communist slogans have gone. One Communist MP speaking during the debate on Mr Yeltsin's nomination as President, said: "I have been a Communist since 1944, and I am not ashamed of it. The party apparatus, in other words, is on the defensive."

## Gorbachov to be given new ideas on Germany's Nato membership

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush will offer President Gorbachov fresh inducements during their three-day summit to agree to a united Germany joining Nato. A senior administration official disclosed in a pre-summit briefing that "we do indeed have some new ideas" for resolving what appears to be the central and most intractable issue on the agenda of the talks.

One of these ideas involved the "strengthening... in some fashion" of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, he said. Both France and Germany have pressed for an enhanced role for the conference in such fields as conflict resolution, but Washington would stop

well short of the Soviet demand that the conference evolve into a pan-European security structure superseding Nato and the Warsaw Pact. Another key inducement, according to unnamed Administration officials quoted by *The Washington Post*, may be a clear commitment to future negotiations which would limit the size of a united Germany's armed forces. This could come in the form of a general statement in the proposed Conventional Forces in Europe agreement, which will reduce superpower troop levels in Europe and set out a framework for further negotiations to limit the forces of several European countries as well.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, yesterday denied that Mr Bush would offer a deal to limit the size of German forces. Washington acknowledges that the Soviet Union has legitimate worries about the size of the Bundeswehr, but insists this is not a matter for the "two plus four" talks on reunification and will not countenance negotiations that "singulize" Germany by concentrating solely on German forces.

Nor would Washington agree to limits on European force levels being included in the current negotiations. In addition, Nato as a whole would obviously have to agree to such follow-on negotiations.

Another official quoted by

the newspaper suggested that Mr Bush would also be prepared to discuss Nato's "flexible response" strategy - anathema to the Soviet side - under which it would back conventional forces with the first use of nuclear weapons.

Officials would not say what other inducements Mr Bush might offer Mr Gorbachov, but they are worried that the Soviet leader's domestic troubles may make it harder for him to accede to a united Germany in Nato and so clearly want to offer a deal that he can "sell" to the Soviet people. "There are things we're prepared to do to ease the difficulty (Mr Gorbachov) faces going along with it," one said.

Soviet and American arms control teams engaged in eleven-hour pre-summit negotiations in Washington this week have made some modest progress towards resolving outstanding disputes on conventional and strategic nuclear arms reduction treaties. The very limited information that has seeped out indicates that, in the strategic arms (Start) talks, agreement is close on Soviet Backfire bombers - medium-range aircraft capable of being up to a strategic "heavy" bomber.

By yesterday morning there was no sign of a breakthrough on the core issue of whether the Soviet Union will be able to continue modernizing their huge and highly accurate SS18

strategic missiles, but Administration officials remained optimistic that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov would be able to sign a declaration of broad agreement on the substantive points tomorrow evening.

In the conventional forces field, the negotiators are reported to be close to full agreement on how to define what tanks and armoured vehicles should be included in the treaty, but again there has been no sign of an agreement on aircraft limitations. Both sides have played down the chances of any summit accord on conventional forces, and no treaty is expected before this autumn at the earliest.

The one accord that is now ready for signing tomorrow will commit the superpowers to reducing their stockpiles of chemical weapons to 5,000 tons a side by 2002 and to cease production of new weapons.

Administration officials are warning against big surprises and breakthroughs during the summit. "This is not a summit dedicated to the celebration of agreements that we can sign. It's a summit designed to do the hard work of trying to overcome the remaining obstacles that stand in the way of transforming East-West relations," one said. "We are now down to the bare-bone essentials and down to fundamental issues and these are not going to be settled easily."

Winning esteem, page 10

## Protocol nightmare looms for US staff

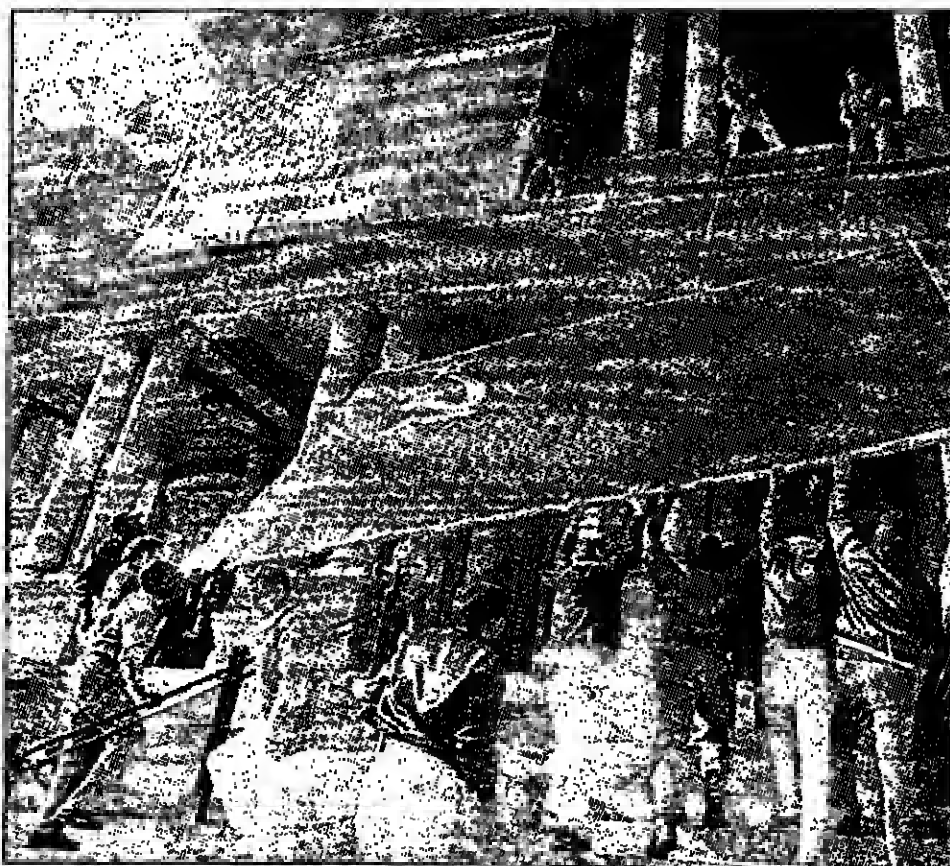
FROM PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON awaited President Gorbachov's arrival last night with mixed feelings of anxiety, triumph and even a little pity.

As workmen at Andrews Air Force Base made the final preparations to accommodate the USSR's superpower panoply of 18 aircraft, six Zil limousines and mobile satellite communications station, city commentators reflected that not since former President Nixon greeted Leonid Brezhnev during the Watergate affair had the political status of two summiters been so ill-matched.

To the conservative commentator, Mr Pat Buchanan, who was a public relations adviser to Mr Nixon at the 1973 summit, the reversal of fortunes yesterday was a particular pleasure. Mr Gorbachov, he said, was like Milton's fallen angel, Belial, "princely council in his face yet shown, majestic though in ruin".

To more liberal officials, in the State Department and throughout the foreign policy establishment, their visitor is better likened to a spokesman for the distressed genteel society. As long as he keeps his dignity (his elegantly old-fashioned double-breasted suit was seen as striking just the right note), he should be



A huge Soviet flag being raised yesterday at the front of the Old Executive Office in Washington in preparation for the arrival of President Gorbachov later in the day

helped through his rough patch in life, his security needs accommodated, his generals appeased.

To those immediately involved in preparations for today's formal talks and celebrations, there is too much to worry about to look back to Milton or forward to the new Europe. The next five days seem set to be a protocol chief's nightmare as the US organizers attempt to plan for a man who seems very reluctant to be planned. This is the

first state visit to the US by a Soviet leader. This morning President Gorbachov is due to receive a 21-gun salute on the White House lawn. If he were merely the General Secretary of the Communist Party, he would begin his first round of talks at 10.30am with the sound of only 19 guns echoing in his ears.

President Bush has instructed his chief protocol ambassador, Mr Joseph Reed, to ensure the full "architectural" of the most formal US

state occasion until Mr Gorbachov leaves Washington for what the White House sees as private trips to Minnesota and San Francisco.

Tonight there is to be a state banquet at the White House for more than a hundred guests.

This afternoon the Soviet leader will prepare for his early evening talks and for his 7pm dinner with the first four hours of what the Americans see as an inordinate amount of requested "private time".

## Bonn puts accent on economy

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WEST Germany believes that President Gorbachov is more worried about economic problems than about the future military status of a united Germany, and the West should therefore be concentrating more on helping him to reform the Soviet economy than on trying to reassure him about Nato's peaceful intentions.

The West German assessment is based on the fact that Soviet background papers, passed between officials handling the reunification negotiations, have so far ignored Nato and dealt almost exclusively with the economy. Herr Helmut Haussmann, the Bonn Economics Minister, told a meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris yesterday that both the present superpower meeting and the July summit of the seven most industrialized democratic countries "must result in Western nations helping Gorbachov in his policy of reforming the economy". He was not suggesting simply providing cash or special funds. The scale of the Soviet problem was too great to solve merely with money.

THE ghost of Nancy Reagan is stalking Washington as troops of journalists prepare to track the meeting this week of the superpower first ladies of 1990.

The international media delighted in past years in detailing the "Style Wars" between Mrs Raisa Gorbachov and Mrs Reagan, who did not disguise their lack of rapport and battles to upstage each other's wardrobe. This week, the US capital's large press corps is watching to see if Mrs Barbara Bush and Mrs Gorbachov will officially end this recent Cold War between superpower spouses.

"Can America's 'Silver Fox' and the 'Bo Derek of the Steppes'

actually become friends?" teased *The Washington Times*, the conservative daily. Meanwhile, a cartoon in a national magazine showed the auburn-haired Mrs Gorbachov grinning as she stuck pins in a Nancy Reagan doll.

While the public animosity between Mrs Reagan and Mrs Gorbachov did not harm US-Soviet relations, this summit has more at stake. Not only has President Bush made personal diplomacy a hallmark of his presidency, but he and Mr Gorbachov face several days of sober analysis of East-West relations in contrast with the euphoria surrounding their last meeting in Malta shortly after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Mr Bush must convince the

American public that he made the right decision in endorsing Mr Gorbachov. The Soviet leader must also look strong for a domestic audience increasingly disenchanted by the failure of economic reforms and anxious in the Baltic republics to break away from Soviet rule. Neither can easily afford the embarrassment of a tiff between their wives.

Asked last week if his personal ties with President Gorbachov had cooled in the wake of US opposition to the Kremlin's handling of Lithuania's moves towards independence, Mr Bush said: "I'll have to wait and see." The measured reply reflected uncertainty about Mr Gorbachov's standing amid a split within the Administration over whether the White House

should continue to embrace Mr Gorbachov so fervently or back off.

The two first ladies have met on several occasions during the past three years, in December 1988 at a luncheon hosted in New York by the wife of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and at the last Washington summit in 1987. Mrs Bush's personal secretary described their relationship as "cordial". The US media even credited Mrs Bush with smoothing Mrs Gorbachov's feathers at the New York lunch after Mrs Reagan, the then first lady of America, butted in several times before Mrs Gorbachov had a chance to reply to questions. "We all want your secret," Mrs Bush whispered.

This visit by Mrs Gorbachov is expected to be low-key. Although

known for her independence, the Soviet first lady is likely to avoid any extravaganzas which could further damage her reputation at home, where she is often criticized for travelling abroad too much with her husband, influencing his opinions and enjoying the good life as Russians struggle against economic hardship.

Tass has assigned two full-time reporters to cover her moves as the Russians, weighed down by food shortages and political unrest, are readier than ever to criticize her. Americans, too, are likely to scrutinize Mrs Gorbachov more closely now the novelty of an elegant Soviet presidential wife has worn off. Mindful of their trailing popularity at home, the Gorbachovs declined an invitation

from the Bushes to visit his New England home on the coast of Maine, where he takes foreign visitors to relax. Instead, they will spend one night at the presidential mountain retreat, Camp David.

In contrast with her visit three years ago to Washington, Mrs Gorbachov has scheduled few high-profile events and only three trips away from her husband. These include opening an exhibition of rare Soviet manuscripts at the Library of Congress. Aside from official welcoming ceremonies and dinners, the first ladies will have a private tea party in the White House with a handful of wives of prominent administration officials, including those of Mr Dan Quayle and Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State.



## Russians delve into lost world

From RICHARD OWEN in MOSCOW

MR BORIS Yeltsin won a remarkable victory this morning for a variety of reasons including dissatisfaction with the Gorbachev leadership and his charisma.

But for many Russians yesterday there was one overriding factor: the prospect of "sovereign" Russia and freedom after years of the Soviet Union's authoritarian rule.

Mr Yeltsin made a shrewd move during his campaign to win the hearts and minds of the "lost world" of post-Soviet Russia by promising to restore the country's independence and to end the "Soviet Union".

To some extent, some of the Russian people have been misled by the promises of the "new Russia".

Mr Yeltsin's victory was a triumph for the "new Russia" and a defeat for the "old Russia".

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## D-Mark Day is target for destruction of Berlin Wall

From ANNE McELVOY in EAST BERLIN

THE city of Berlin will be whole again by the beginning of July when the Wall truncating hundreds of streets will be demolished, the East German Government announced yesterday.

Its spokesman, Herr Matthias Gehler, said that it was now "absurd that people should run up against walls and barbed wire when they travel from Germany to Germany".

He called on West German building firms to offer their services free of charge to open up Berlin's streets by the symbolic date of the currency union with West Germany on July 1.

Passport controls will be continued but on an increasingly relaxed basis, Herr Gehler said. Britons wishing to visit East Germany will no longer need a visa after June 8.

Herr Gehler could not name the number of streets involved

but they are believed to run into several hundred ranging from main thoroughfares to tiny residential streets, where neighbours separated for 28 years will be able to meet once more.

The East German Government also said that a free market pricing system based on supply and demand will be introduced for most goods after July 1, with only rents and a handful of basic goods and services continuing to be subsidised to compensate for lower wages in East Germany. The country will also implement West German tax laws from next year.

With East German eyes on July 1, now known simply as D-Mark Day, the Government has admitted that panic buying and hoarding have led to severe shortages in the shops. "We can no longer calculate the buying habits of our own citizens," said Frau Christina Boschek of the Trade Ministry.

She spoke of a growing wave of hoarding, known as "hamster buying", saying that East Germans were now stocking up on meat and groceries to freeze while they are sold for east marks and have even begun to buy extra freezers in which to store them.

Thousands of extra staff are to be drafted into banks to cope with the onslaught of customers after the currency union, with opening hours extended to evenings and weekends. A spokesman for the State Bank served warning, however, that "a degree of chaos" was unavoidable. The Deutschmark will become the only legal tender in the East, with only small East German coins accepted in slot machines after the currency union.

The Government also confirmed its controversial decision at the beginning of the week to turn back Romanians entering the country without an invitation or assured accommodation.

Thousands of Romanians, including several hundred gypsy families, have streamed into East Germany over the past weeks, with many camping at railway stations in an attempt to set up homes in East Germany and so take advantage of the monetary union.

## Solidarity triumphs in local polls

From ROGER BOYES in WARSAW

SOLIDARITY scored important victories and made almost a clean sweep in some cities during local council elections last weekend, according to preliminary results issued yesterday.

The results from what were effectively Poland's first free elections for more than 50 years were an important boost for Mr Lech Walesa, Solidarity's chairman, who is trying to speed up the pace of reform in Poland. Despite the low turnout of about 42 per cent, the Solidarity-backed Citizens' Committees emerged as the dominant force in Cracow (winning 72 out of 75 seats), Warsaw (301 out of 345 seats) and Gdansk (59 out of 60).

Combined with the council seats won by Farmers' Solidarity, Solidarity supporters now have control over all local decision-making in Poland. This will make it easier for them to oust entrenched communist party officials who have been running town councils.

## Jubilation greets Croatia assembly

From DENA TREVISAN, BELGRADE

CROATIA staged a day of national jubilation to celebrate the inaugural session of the republic's first post-war, multi-party parliament. At Tuesday's opening session Dr Franjo Tudjman, the former partisan general, dissident and political prisoner, became Croatia's first democratically elected president. He leads the Croatian Democratic Union Party which won an overwhelming victory in last month's elections.

The day of celebration was marred only by the boycott of parliament's opening session by the five deputies representing the Serbian minority in Croatia.

Throughout Tuesday afternoon thousands of people waving Croatian flags and shouting "Communist dictatorship: never again" gathered on the streets of Zagreb, the Croatian capital, to celebrate the installation of the mem-

bers of the new parliament and the election of Dr Tudjman.

The Democratic Union wooed the election with a promise to seek greater autonomy for Croatia within the Yugoslav confederation and to defend Croatia's independence. Addressing parliament, Mr Zarko Domjan, its new chairman, said it would "never again be the rubber stamp of decisions made outside". In a gesture to Croatian communists, he thanked them for opening the way to multi-party elections which, as the result revealed, brought an end to their 45 years of total and unchallenged rule.

Of 338 deputies, 218 voted in favour of Dr Tudjman. The five Serbian deputies boycotted the ceremony to protest against a recent unexplained attack on one of the leading members of the Serbian Democratic Party in Croatia.



Mme Valente arriving at the Toulon court yesterday with one of her daughters

## Ex-hostage is jailed in custody battle

From REUTER in TOULON

A FRENCH woman who spent more than two years in captivity as a hostage was sent to prison for two months yesterday for ignoring a court order giving her former husband custody of their children.

Mme Jacqueline Valente, who walked to freedom in Beirut last month, was convicted of infringing a 1985 custody order. The prosecutor had only sought a one-month suspended sentence, citing the ordeal she went through for two and a half years until her release on April 10. But the court sentenced her to six months, with four months suspended. Her lawyers said she would appeal.

Mme Valente, a divorcee, on her return to France had appealed against an earlier one-year jail sentence passed in absentia in March, 1985.

After her divorce, Mme Valente lost custody of her two little daughters but was given visiting rights. In 1985 she sailed away with the toddlers on board a yacht, the Silco, bought by her Belgian friend, Mr. Fernand Hontekins, and his family.

In 1987 the Silco was seized by a Libyan-backed Palestinian group in the Mediterranean and its passengers were held hostage.

## Liberian troops raid UN camp

From REUTER AND ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MONROVIA

SOLDIERS attacked a United Nations compound yesterday where members of rival Gio and Mano tribes had taken shelter, killing a UN security guard and abducting at least 30 men, witnesses said. Hours later, President Doe was hissed and booed by several hundred refugees at the compound when he promised to protect them.

"Kill us, kill us," the hecklers screamed, taunting nervous armed soldiers who accompanied President Doe to the UN building five miles from the centre of Monrovia. "Trust me, I will find a solution," President Doe said.

He said the people who had attacked them "are fighting me, not you", indicating that there may be a dissident group within his Army. "I want to assure you that I personally am going to protect you. You are my citizens. If you are not happy, I am not happy."

The President offered to send cars to drive all the refugees to executive mansions in Monrovia. However, the crowd hissed, booed, wept and shouted the names of relatives they said had been slaughtered by troops. "How many of us have to die? You cannot protect us. We don't want government protection."

Witnesses at the UN compound said about 10 armed soldiers arrived just before

dawn, demanding to be admitted. They said three jumped over the locked gate and began beating women and children. "They forced people to undress, more than 50 women and children," Mr Jerry Samu, a UN guard who suffered a bayonet wound in the back, said, adding "I'm sure they killed some people outside."

The incident came as frightened Liberian families packed their belongings and fled the capital amid rumours that rebels were closing in. Top ministers are reportedly deserting President Doe to join the exodus.

Mr Michael Heyn, director of the UN Development Programme, told diplomats that the incident indicated a "complete lack of control and law and order in this city. This has been going on for some time and it just so happens that this time it's the United Nations where it happened," Mr Heyn said.

The 425,000 residents of the capital have become increasingly frightened as rebels led by the dissident businessman, Mr Charles Taylor, have come within 20 miles of the city and are approaching the airport. Hundreds of people are reported to be leaving the country daily.

Ghana Airways suspended its flights to Robertsfield, Liberia's only airport, until further notice.

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# Perpetrating a glitch in time

Bernard Richards rues the anachronisms increasingly found in script and novel

Romania is a great English obsession, as we saw last week when a flotilla of "little ships" sailed once again for Dunkirk. Increasingly, though, we demand that re-creations of the past, especially on film, be accurate down to the last rivet. Bad marks were awarded to the director of *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*, who has car headlights glaring away during the "dim-out" of 1944; similarly, *The Winds of War* had flashing Belisha beacons.

We are intolerant of such visual mistakes, but kick up less of a fuss over verbal anachronisms. A survey of recent films and historical novels shows them to be crammed with howlers. Yet to cognoscenti, such errors can damage the illusion as much as an inauthentic regimental badge or car number.

Not even Booker Prize winners are immune. In Peter Carey's *Jackaroo* (1988) the events occur before 1866 but he has "not on your nelly", which Frankie Howard believes he invented. We find "peevish" (first used in 1908), "sky pilot" (1893) and "cellophane" (1912). In 1859 the hero reflects that "perhaps he could open an account at Blackwell's". Perhaps not: the firm was founded 20 years later.

The cumulative effect of these little inaccuracies is to make one feel that a better *entree* into the past would be an authentic Victorian novel or an autobiography of the period, such as Edmund Gosse's *Father and Son*. Even TV adaptations of period classics are unreliable. In a recent version of Dorothy L. Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Harriet Vane spouted the Californian psychobabble "I don't believe what I'm hearing".

Many films set in the recent past have similar errors, even though living memory is available as a check. Nastassja Kinski in *Maria's Lovers* (set in the 1940s) uses the phrase "squeaky clean" very much a '50s phrase. In David Hare's *Plenty*, the elder statesman Darwin refers, during the Suez crisis, to "cowboys"; but this usage, for fly-by-night crooks, began 10 years later.

In his poem "The Screen", Gavin Ewart observes that recent anachronisms far worse than older ones: "The further in time the more acceptable, but latterly, where we know what they might have said, a bit silly."

Does it matter? After all, the greatest dramatist ever has clocks in *Julius Caesar* and churchyards in *Coriolanus*. And in *The Duchess of Malfi*, set before 1512, Webster has a character refer to Galileo. If they could do it, why shouldn't we tolerate Robert Bolt's Henry VIII referring to a *magdalena* (named after a 17th-century botanist) or Henry II in Anouilh's *Becket* using the term "aesthetics" 600 years before it entered the language? Why shouldn't Mozart's friends in

*Amadeus* say "We just stopped by to see you Wolffe"? (Which wins the Order of the Clockwork Galileo for spectacular anachronism.)

The answer is obvious. Shakespeare and his contemporaries did not bother with such niceties because to them, only the eternal applicability of history mattered. Elizabeth I once said to William Lambarde, the Keeper of the Tower: "I am Richard II. Know ye not that?" meaning that the issues she faced were the same as those of her royal predecessor, although she was as far away from him as our Queen is from George III.

Our concept of history is different: we are concerned not with the universal features of particular periods, but with their particularity and unrepeatability. This notion of history was largely created by Sir Walter Scott, and there is no going back to the earlier view.

Modern historians today are concerned with the pastness of the past. But in popular historical re-creations a curious situation has evolved. In material terms there is an ever-increasing drive for authenticity. This has reached awesome proportions, with *Little Dorrit*'s costume makers trying to get right not just the appearance of Victorian costumes, but their weight and feel. There seems to be no limit to the lengths to which directors will go to avoid receiving letters from buffs who have spotted incorrect firearms or anachronistic railway livery.

The lack of such thoroughness in the spoken and written word stems from film directors and historical novelists being caught between two stools. They like the exotic appearance of olden times, but they are not interested in the past for its own sake, only in convenient and marketable versions of it. They want audiences to identify with their characters, to believe that human beings are essentially the same through the centuries, which means that however odd their actors and characters look, they have to sound familiar and plausible. Also, attempts to reproduce archaic-sounding dialogue so often misfire that most directors are wary. All those "gadgets" and "forsooths" are unconvincing, especially when Francis Drake goes to Hollywood.

The problem is more serious in naturalistic films than in the theatre. Linguistic absurdities are just about tolerable in the stage version of *A Man for All Seasons*, because we know we are being offered a version of history. But films suggest that we are seeing the thing itself, and such naturalism demands accuracy of language.

Until more care is taken with the language, gross verbal anachronisms will continue to flourish, as prominent in the mouth as the vaccination mark on the thigh of the filmed harem houri. Alas! The author is a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

My guidebook writes of Naples that "famous travellers have been bewitched, assassinated, fooled, seduced and betrayed in an ephemeral play leading to nowhere". It goes on to predict that no departing this blend of crude reality and enticing fantasy, one takes away a deep melancholy. I encountered the melancholy long before there was an opportunity for bewitchment, fascination, seduction etc. I could not get away from the airport.

Naples boasts just short of two million citizens. Most have a car, many have several cars, a lot of them were driving where I was driving, around the roundabout by the airport from which the second exit leads to the motorway to Salerno. They drive with brio, foot on accelerator, hand on klaxon, eye on people walking along the pavement, to most of whom they seem to be related, or wish to become related. I was racing round in the fourth of five lanes when the battered mini Fiat on my inside signalled a right turn, which was fine by me; regretably the Lancia on my outside indicated that it was turning left. It hit the Fiat. A dozen cars behind me booed in empathy, so I did another circuit, glad I had ticked the box marked "Do You Wish to Avail Yourself of Comprehensive Insurance?"

Next time round, an articulated truck blocked the exit, and I was pleased about having agreed the "unlimited mileage" option also. Would I spend the entire weekend on the roundabout? Would I make the Guinness Book of Records? On my fourth circuit I was getting into the swing of it: 50 yards before my turning I sounded my horn, pushed my right hand through the sun-roof towards Mount Vesuvius and cut in front of a Transilful of nuns. Honk went the Transit, negotiating a dead dog in the third lane. Honk went I, feeling like Toadie, and it was off to Castelabate and Positano.

Pompeii, Salerno and Eboli flashed by; I would have stopped had I been driving with this open Lamborghini driven by a fearless granny who had just learned to corner on two wheels. She stopped suddenly, in a

small town in the middle of the road, shouting "Ciao" at a man, whereafter I slowed down and, as evening came, meandered through Santa Maria, where I counted 23 men's hairdressers before finding a bar.

"Bon giorno," I said (after which my Italian deteriorated), "a Campari and orange juice."

"Momento," said the woman behind the bar; she came out, got into her Fiat, drove off and a moment or two later returned with an orange, which she squeezed ineptly in the general direction of my glass. I asked for Joe. She went away, this time for not nearly so long, and came back with two lumps, smiled, passed me some olives, charged £1.

Nineteen hairdressers and five panel beaters further down the street, I found a restaurant. I was the sole customer. Yes it was open; yes I could sit at the window. The woman wiped the table, brought a cloth which she spread over it, then knives and forks and glasses and a bottle of cold red local wine replete of fruit and cinnamon, and I ordered soup and pasta and insalata di mare which arrived together about 45 minutes later. The southern road to Positano winds lethally through the mountains, steep sharp bends, down steep inclines, past ladies sleeping lemons on the roadside. In the villages there are many hairdressers and few bars, which situation is reversed when you reach the old town. It is stunning, built into the high rocks above the sea with one street snaking down from the cornice, never actually getting down to the sea but affording a thousand parking places as it makes its way from eastern hairpin to western hairpin and back and back. For those wanting more immediate means of getting about, there are a million steps and sharp inclines along which to climb and slide, and every house is a dress shop unless it is an ice-cream parlour.

What do tourists do, I asked a hotelier friend as we were dodging vehicles outside a bar. He said they go to Capri, by boat; they go there to eat ice-cream and buy dresses; also there are good lemons. Are there cars? He nodded. "Is Italy," he said.

Andrei Kortunov offers an independent Moscow view of the best response to German unity

# Bring Russia closer into Europe

According to an opinion poll conducted in April in nine Soviet republics, about 60 per cent of the public favour German reunification, with 24 per cent against and 16 per cent undecided. However, on the question of a new security order in Europe, the Soviet public is much more conservative, 67 per cent preferring a neutral Germany guaranteed by the four powers.

Many radical Soviet intellectuals are highly critical of the idea of a neutral Germany. They see it as a relic of the Cold War, when the aim was to create a buffer between the two blocs. Now, they argue, a neutral Germany would increase instability in Europe by creating an independent power centre with unclear political aspirations, an unpredictable military strategy and huge economic potential.

Some of the new thinkers would prefer to see the two parts of Germany moving closer but remaining within their existing military-political and economic alliances. This way Germany would become a proving ground for constructive co-operation be-

tween the alliances, leading gradually to pan-European structures on security and co-operation. For the first time in history, Germany would serve to unite rather than to divide Europe.

But this option would be practical only if we could speak of the reunification of two equal states and the co-operation of two full-blooded alliances. That, however, is not the case, either militarily or economically. The forms and conditions of reunification are being dictated not by Berlin but by Bonn with its position of strength.

There is a third, more realistic option. This envisages a united Germany participating in Nato, but on special conditions which meet the security concerns of its neighbours. This would mean either East Germany becoming a demilitarized buffer zone in the centre of Europe, or Germany as a whole being a member of Nato's political institutions but with a special status in the alliance's military organization.

The practical choices might range from reducing its military participation to leaving the

military alliance completely, but some German participation in Nato's military structures would probably be preferable. In that case, Germany would not need its own general staff or nuclear or chemical weapons. Soviet troops would be gradually withdrawn from East German territory, and the US military presence would be reduced to a mere token. But even if all Soviet troops withdrew, Germans would probably like some Americans to remain.

At first glance this option looks like a clear Soviet defeat. No wonder Mr Gorbachev has shown little enthusiasm for such an outcome. But isn't this irrational fear of Nato symptomatic of the old way of thinking?

Nato will be highly vulnerable to centrifugal trends. It is likely to turn gradually into an amorphous "political club" of Western democracies, in which the declarations of "Atlantic solidarity" and common historical destiny will sound more and more like a ritual. Since Nato has never been very successful at resolving conflicts and contradictions between its own member-states (protracted

conflict between Greece and Turkey is a vivid example), it is highly probable that most practical issues will be decided by the European Community, emerging pan-European structures, the United Nations and other institutions which have nothing to do with the East-West confrontation of the Cold War period. The EC rather than Nato will become the key player in the new Europe.

I believe that the best Soviet option is to promote disintegration of the bloc system in Europe by accelerating the Vienna negotiations, withdrawing troops from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland as soon as possible, and radically and unilaterally reducing the Soviet military presence in East Germany. (Only 11 per cent of the Soviet population think that the USSR should keep its forces in Germany after reunification; and 95 per cent of the Soviet military support complete withdrawal from East Germany, so so this issue the army does not oppose Mr Gorbachev.)

The security interests of the Soviet Union can better be served by agreements to reduce coo-

ventional forces in Europe than by the two-plus-four negotiations. A CFE agreement would create a system of close observation and verification which should give all parties — including the Soviet Union — additional confidence in their security.

Whatever form the developments in Europe take, Soviet political influence on the continent is bound to diminish as the Soviet Union falls further and further behind Western Europe in economic, scientific and technological terms, and as a result of the end of the Cold War (which will also affect the United States' position in Europe).

But even though it will cease to be a superpower, the Soviet Union can remain a full participant in European politics, as it has been for the last three centuries at least. Perhaps a smaller and more homogeneous Russia will find it easier to participate in the creation of a greater European Community. The chance should not be missed.

The author is head of international security problems at the Institute of the USA and Canada Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

# Where mouths are gagged in the cause of closed minds

Bernard Levin takes little comfort from the judicial ruling on freedom of speech at Liverpool University

From time to time, I have chronicled here the extraordinarily successful campaign waged by left-wing students at the University of Liverpool to abolish free speech on the campus, while the university authorities sternly said "Dear, dear" or "Fancy that". The persistent harassment suffered by the Liverpool University Conservative Association at the hands of the tiny totalitarianism who have long dominated student political affairs there, has included their being refused access to university premises and denied facilities open to all student bodies. (Quite separately, there was a break-in at their office, whence money and sensitive files were removed.)

The free speech battle came to a head when the Conservative students invited two officials from the South African embassy to address a meeting at the university. The uncontrollable tension with which the tiny totalitarianism viewed the mere possibility of hearing opinions (or, worse, facts) which they had not encountered before, engendered in them a determination to ensure that no such opinions or facts would be heard: they therefore decided to stop the meeting by force. (The Conservative students had made clear that there would be time for questions, but that, presumably, made things worse, for what if a question had been answered satisfactorily?)

All this has been a familiar story in many British universities for a good many years, though it is true that few university authorities have been quite as feeble as those at Liverpool. Since September 1987, however, legislation has been in force which lays upon the governing bodies of universities, however feeble, the duty of ensuring that lawful free speech is not denied on the campus.

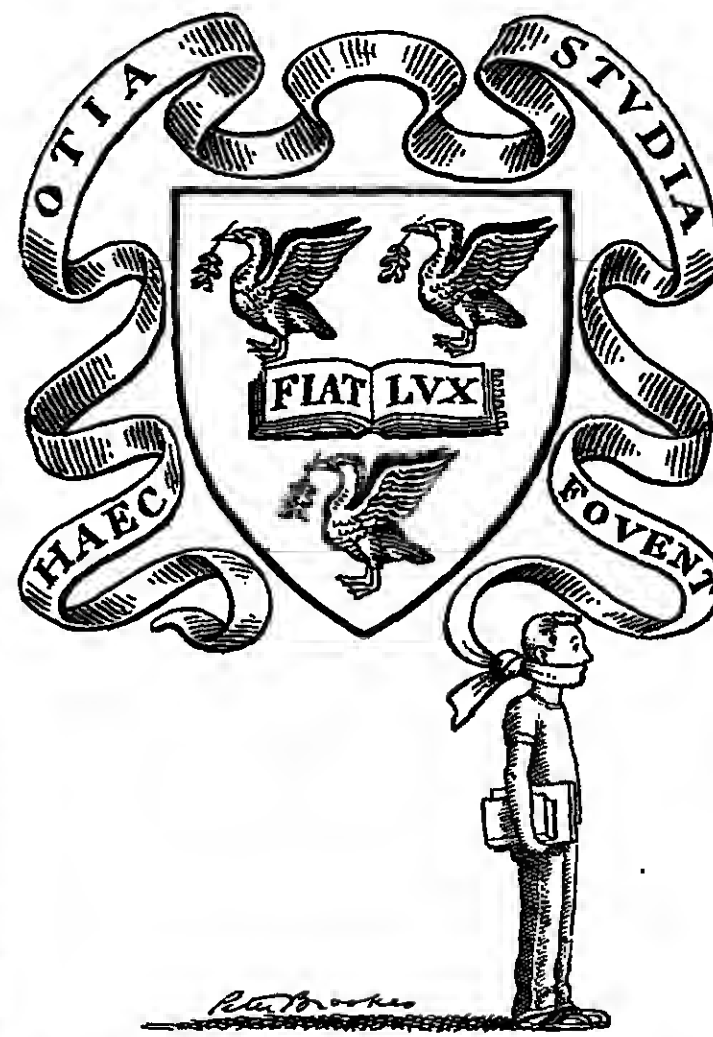
Unfortunately, though I suppose inevitably, the legislation gave the universities an opportunity to evade their obligations; if it is not "reasonably practical" to make secure arrangements for the protection of free speech, the

authorities can, without penalty, relieve themselves of their duty. The catch is that it is the relievers who judge whether their duty can reasonably and practically be carried out, and to the surprise of no one who has followed the affairs of Liverpool University, its authorities on this occasion did judge that they would reasonably and practically allow free speech to be suppressed on their premises. They banned the meeting.

The Conservative students, a sturdy lot, regrouped and put in another application for such a meeting a few weeks later. This time, possibly embarrassed by the widespread stir the story was making, the authorities served themselves to defy the tiny totalitarianism. They did, however, go to remarkable lengths to ensure that the entire meeting would be a waste of time for everybody concerned, by laying down a series of conditions so preposterous that many must have thought the list a hoax; the provisions included an insistence that only members of the Conservative Association should be allowed to attend, that no public announcement of the meeting should be made in any form, and that the cost of the university's duty to guard free speech should be paid entirely by the Conservative students.

After considerable adverse publicity, the Liverpool University authorities retreated, withdrawing most of the more ludicrous conditions, and five days later they banned that meeting too. The Liverpool student Tories are not only a sturdy lot; they are also tenacious, and they determined to block the hole in the legislation behind which the university had cowered (purists who insist that it is impossible to cover a hole should be advised that although that is generally true, Liverpool University has long managed the feat without difficulty). So they served a writ on the university, and last week the court delivered its judgment.

The judgment in question, though it was on the side of the applicants, was hardly less feeble



than the authorities of the university. The two judges agreed that the application had succeeded, but only because there had been threats of violence from the Liverpool suburb of Toxteth (not necessarily stimulated by the tiny totalitarianism); the court read the Act to mean that the university was not entitled to take into account the possibility of violence "outside the confines of the University by persons not within its control". Clearly, extra-curricular totalitarianism cannot be subject to Liverpool University's rules of good behaviour (neither, in practice, can the students, come to think of it) and the vice-chancellor was therefore in the wrong.

But the judges made appallingly clear that the university was within its rights in imposing absurd and crippling conditions

on such a meeting. Worse, they said plainly that if the university had pleaded, as its reason for banning the meeting, the danger of disorder only on the campus and among university members, no objection could have been taken within the legislation, though why, in that case, the judges thought the legislation had been passed into law is not clear. And another thing: the applicants, though they won, were denied their costs.

The applicants did what they could with this bizarre decision, saying that "the court has handed a message to left and right extremists that the threat of public disorder will not now be sufficient grounds for trying to halt a meeting taking place on a university campus, and freedom of speech will prevail. Weak-willed university authorities will no

longer have grounds to kowtow to these extremists."

That is called putting a brave face on it, unfortunately, the decision will enable Liverpool University to put a cowardly face on it whenever it wishes, and the tiny totalitarianism have plainly achieved a considerable victory.

We shall see what happens next time; but while we are waiting we shall think, and what we shall think about will bring us little cheer. Is it not extraordinary that in universities, of all bodies, free speech is not hymned and worshipped, but all too often abused and denied? Is it not matter for unease that young people who should be eager, indeed ravenous, to hear the widest possible variety of ideas and nostrums, are in fact not only incapable in their determination to allow no unfamiliar thought into their minds, but equally incapable in making sure, as far as they can, that no unfamiliar thought should enter the minds of others? Is it not seriously alarming that many students have apparently convinced themselves that the best way of going through university is to shut their ears and eyes, to ensure that they leave with no more understanding than they had when they entered?

If that is so, and it seems as though it is at Liverpool University, has not something gone very seriously wrong in the university authority's idea of how a university should be run? I do not mean in the matter of discipline: boys will be boys, and girls, girls, and a riot or two every now and again should not seriously disturb the cloistered calm. But what sort of people are running the place if they do not offer, proclaim, defend and pay homage to free speech at all times, in all ways, through all difficulties, whether they are obliged to do so by law or not?

That, you must surely agree, is a question even more important than whether a particular meeting may be held to peace on university premises. For if the shepherd will pay no attention to the flock, the wolf assuredly will. Is it really true that the governing figures at Liverpool University cannot ensure that free speech there is protected at all times? If they cannot, well, I am told that terms for early retirement at Liverpool are quite generous.

## Walesa's flame of freedom

Mariboro country has a new resident. Philip Morris, the American cigarette company famous for its macho cowboy, has paid an undisclosed sum to Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity leader, to promote its products — though without actually mentioning them — in the face of an increasingly powerful campaign by the anti-smoking lobby. He will figure in a \$60 million advertising effort, built around the bicentenary of the

gle to prove it." The company has also recruited the defected Russian ballerina Valentina Kozlova to feature in the ads. The campaign is part of a life-and-death struggle by America's beleaguered tobacco industry. The middle classes increasingly are kicking the habit; smoking is banned in public places and on internal airline flights; those who light up at a social gathering risk ostracism. But they are still free to do so — just.

No-win situation Media high-fliers have voted with their feet by declining to attempt to fill the shoes of Peter Mandelson, Labour's much-feted public relations chief who is credited with having won the battle of the PR campaigns at the 1987 general election, even though Labour got fewer votes. Mandelson is quitting this autumn to start fighting the safe Labour seat of Hartlepool, but when the party's national executive meets next month to draw up a shortlist to succeed him, it will have a limited choice.

The lack of well-known names is at first sight surprising, given Labour's present standing in the opinion polls. But, says one Labour insider by way of explanation: "Whoever gets the job will receive precious little thanks. If the polls turn around and Labour loses, it will be because Mandelson was missing. If Labour wins, Mandelson will get the credit for having turned round an apparently impossible situation in the first place."

Those who fancy their chances despite the difficulties include two television producers, John Under-

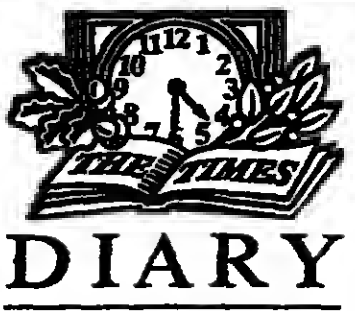
wood and Charles Tremayne, Peter Hall, editor of ITN's Oracle, former party press officer Monica Foot, who now runs media relations for the City of Birmingham, and two internal candidates, Colin Byrne and Jim Parish. The strongest of the hunch, however, seems to be David Hill, for many years Roy Hattersley's right-hand man, popular with lobby journalists, and with the right street-fighting credentials.

Another reason for the lack of big names may be the widely held belief — despite a public denial — that if Neil Kinnock moves into Number Ten after the next election, the man he will ask to be his Bernard Ingham is Alastair Campbell, the able political editor of the Daily Mirror.

CND timebomb

A forgotten court case has returned to haunt CND. In 1983 it sought a High Court injunction requiring the Coalition for Peace through Security to withdraw a spoof CND leaflet with a hammer-and-sickle superimposed over the CND symbol. The request was refused, and the CPTS was awarded legal costs of £1,000. Because CND gave notice of appeal, it was not required to pay there and then. The appeal period has now elapsed — and instead of £1,000, CND has just had to hand over a cheque for £1,960 to the three men who ran the CPTS: Julian Lewis, now an adviser at Conservative Central Office, Tooy Kerpel, right-hand man to the Tory chairman, Kenneth Baker, and Edward Leigh, now a Tory MP. Of the extra £960, inflation accounts for £500 and the remainder, in Lewis's words, is a bill for CND's "seven years of dithering". At the 1983 hearing, the CPTS was represented by Douglas Hogg, now a government minister, who demolished CND's case by producing a similar parody of a Home Office document...

Muir the sorrier This column reaches parts that others cannot reach. At least, that is the view of Frank Muir, who was complaining to anyone who would listen at the recent Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival that the Diary, in a previous incarnation, had cost him a knighthood. After Prince Charles made his maiden speech in the House of Lords, in which he attributed to Oscar Wilde the maxim "If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing badly", Muir wrote to the Diary pointing out that the originator was G.K. Chesterton. Later Muir discussed the *faux pas* with the Duke of Edinburgh, and ventured to ask what "blithering idiot" had given Prince Charles such duff information. He swiftly realized his mistake: the Duke's frosty reaction left him in little



DIARY

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doubt of the source... and in even less doubt that he is likely to remain plain Frank for the rest of his days.

Political pull

Heavyweight politicians will be taking the strain in the contest to decide which House of Parliament carries the most weight. Peers will be trying to make it third time lucky in the tug-of-war competition with the Commons. But this time the Commons, under the captaincy of Tatton Tory MP Neil Hamilton, who weighs in at 14 stone, are practising. "I just cannot allow another Commons flop," says Hamilton, who promises to wear his trademark bow tie for the occasion. "Peers behaved disgracefully in the past by engaging in training, so we will be doing the same." The strict disciplinarian is also insisting that his team of eight wear hobnail boots for the contest, which will be performed in front of the Houses of Parliament next month.

The Commons team will boast some of its most substantial MPs, including Nicholas Soames, Derek Conway, Jeremy Hanley, Bruce George, Sir James Spicer and Lewis Mooloo. But the Lords team will have some imposing figures of its own: Viscount Dillhorne, Lord Colwyn, Lord Strathclyde (a junior employment minister), and, as captain, Lord Hesketh (a junior environment minister). Proceeds will go to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. The Lords team is relieved that Hamilton failed to recruit one MP who would have tipped the scales in the Commons' favour... Sir Cyril Smith.



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## HEALTH

## Killer shellfish join mad cow fears on our dinner plates

Last weekend, John Selwyn Gummer, the Minister for Agriculture, joined seven robed bishops at the head of 8,000 pilgrims who shuffled through the narrow streets of Walsingham, in Norfolk. For the onlookers, other than a few hundred low churchmen who shouted taunts, it seemed an appropriate place for the minister to say his prayers, for Walsingham, a place of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages, is in the heart of beef and barley country and only a few miles from the north Norfolk coast, famed for its cockles, mussels and crabs.

Mr Gummer, already battling against the catastrophic effect of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, on the beef industry, now has to contend with the problem of shellfish contaminated by toxins from blue-green algae.

Fortunately, although some inland water in East Anglia already has a thick coating of the algae and last year sheep and cattle that drank from these lakes died, the Norfolk coast has so far escaped the high levels — up to 50 times higher than those considered safe — found in the north-east which prompted the authorities to advise people from the Humber to Montrose to avoid cockles, mussels, shrimps and prawns, as well as the crabs and lobster that feed off them.

Shellfish are able to concentrate, and accumulate, the mass of toxins produced by the algae — including the potentially lethal saxitoxin, okadaic acid and domoic acid — in their black glands, leaving the rest of the flesh unaffected and apparently healthy. If the shellfish, black gland included, is eaten, the toxins so harmless in the fish can be fatal to the human. The poisons act in two ways: they damage the central

nervous system, causing at the best a severe headache, at the worst paralysis, and affect the guts, with resultant pain, nausea and vomiting. The damage occurs at cell level and follows the breaking down of the regulatory mechanism that carefully balances the intracellular proportions of sodium, potassium and calcium. The toxins are resistant to cooking, but the shellfish will cleanse themselves in a few weeks once the weather changes and the concentration of the algae lessens.

We are usually lucky with shellfish in Britain, provided they are fresh and not contaminated by bacteria or viruses from sewage-polluted water, but diners should beware of choosing shellfish, or for that matter any fish, that is displayed alive in a restaurant tank or bucket; it may be freshly killed for the table, but the water it has come from is likely to be stagnant and suspect.

In parts of America, the situation is different: there is a risk of poisoning each summer when the shellfish feed on organisms in the plankton that produce neurotoxins. The Japanese, too, are vulnerable to a different toxin in their shellfish: it can destroy the ability of the blood to clot, thereby dealing with dinner party guests as if they were rats that had been fed warfarin.

In Japan and China, some fish are so poisonous that taking them was a traditional way of committing suicide. The most poisonous of the Far Eastern fish contains tetrodotoxin, a toxin that acts in the same way as curare. Death occurs within two or three hours of eating the fish.

In Britain, we need only to beware of the roe of pike and barbel, which can cause a severe gastroenteritis, and of mackerel, and then only if its flesh has started to decompose to produce a

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

FRANCIS MORLEY



histamine-type toxin. This causes scromboid poisoning, characterized by flushing, urticarial rash, vomiting and sometimes collapse.

## Time for truce in the cyclotron war

In recent times, one of the most bitter medical wars has been fought over the cyclotron, a machine for producing high-energy neutron beams which can be used to irradiate inoperable tumours. Advocates of this form of treatment claim that press reports over the weekend of 33 deaths had been stimulated by deliberate leaks of the continuing discussions, and are

no more than the recycling of old statistics derived from a time when earlier machines were in use, and before new technology made it possible to minimize tissue damage around the tumour being treated. It is suggested that these reports were designed to bolster lingering fears and made little mention of the hundreds of British people, and more than 10,000 worldwide, who have had otherwise inoperable cancers of the salivary glands, post-nasal spaces and melanomas of the eye treated without catastrophe. By its very nature, the treatment was given to patients whose outlook would otherwise have been bleak, so that the battle does not so much rage over its efficacy in saving a life, but more around the tissue damage which, when the old

technology was used, sometimes only saved or prolonged the life at unacceptable cost — for some survivors their remaining years or months became a nightmare.

The supporters of the therapy claim that to compare the damage wrought by the older machines in a minority of patients with the results achieved with a new cyclotron — which produces a narrow beam, shaped to the tumour, so that surrounding tissue is spared — is as intellectually dishonest as it would be to threaten patients in a modern X-ray department with the horrendous complications of radiation that were prevalent in the Madame Curie era.

Certainly at the moment it seems unfortunate that the existing centre at Clatterbridge Hospital in Wirral, near Liverpool, is under-utilized. This may be partly because doctors in the area are reluctant to recommend radiation therapy — in the north-west of England, only 17 per cent of patients with malignancies are referred for radiotherapy, compared to 40 per cent in the south-east — but also because of the fear engendered to patients by the controversy.

Dr George Laramore, an American radiation oncologist who is in Britain lecturing on the use of the cyclotron, has no doubt that when the data from the American trials are analysed, which will take a year or two, the cyclotron will be vindicated and become an established tool in cancer treatment.

Dr Laramore said: "It is unfortunate in Britain that the fire of the battle is in danger of obscuring scientific evidence. Many British physicians would agree that the time has now come to devise a peace formula which will allow both sides to settle their differences without loss of face."

## Diet risk reaches new heights

The half of the British adult population who make some attempt, however feeble, to slim each year may have felt a twinge of envy when they read that Brian Blessed, the actor, had shed five stone while filming at more than 20,000ft in the Himalayas. Mr Blessed, who is 5ft 10in and usually weighs 16st, was overweight by any standards, but such sudden unplanned weight loss — even without the added dangers of altitude sickness — might permanently damage his health.

While no Everest, Mr Blessed noticed several of the symptoms of cerebral oedema: he hallucinated and became verbose and tearful. He failed to recognize his wife at the airport, and she has since noticed that he has lost some of his former intellectual agility. Mr Blessed found that the altitude sickness induced anorexia and that he had a particular aversion to meat. In any diet when the protein intake is less than 60 or 70 grammes a day, patients not only lose muscle fibres from limb muscles and the heart muscle, but their kidneys and liver also atrophy. Cardiac efficiency is lost, and Mr Blessed risked a possible arrhythmia in a heart overtaxed by the altitude and then subjected to protein loss and low potassium.

Sudden weight loss and altitude sickness reduce the body's ability to fight disease. Protein lack is particularly dangerous while climbing, as it undermines the heat-control mechanism, and makes the patient liable to hypothermia. Slimmers should feel concern rather than envy, and resolve that their diet will be balanced.

Old wives' tales about the perils of childbirth are seldom believed these days. But last weekend brought the publication of some modern obstetric horror stories, courtesy of the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ). They were included in a report on obstetric accidents which analysed 64 births in which all the babies died or suffered brain damage, and four mothers also died, after medical mismanagement.

Although these tragedies occurred over a five-year period, in which more than three million births occurred in England and Wales, the authors believe they are not isolated incidents.

The report also reopened important questions about the level and appropriateness of medical intervention in normal childbirth. Its conclusion is that, in the cases it examined, junior doctors were inadequately trained and supervised.

As a result, foetal heart monitoring was inadequate, with signs of foetal distress going unnoticed in 14 of the 64 cases; forceps deliveries were mismanaged, and in

## Are babies born into the very best of hands?

A BMJ report has raised questions about who should supervise difficult births. Ann Kent reports

about a third of cases senior staff failed to come to the labour ward when needed. In some instances, senior house officers (SHOs) were overconfident and failed to realize they needed expert help. (Despite the "senior" in the title, the SHO is a newly qualified doctor who is often in his or her first obstetric post and is training under the supervision of a consultant.)

Yet, despite these findings, giving birth appears to be safer than ever. Maternal deaths in

childbirth, counted in the thousands just a couple of generations ago, are now rare. But public expectations have risen as death rates have dropped, and we do not expect normal deliveries to end in disaster.

According to Geoffrey Chamberlain, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, the perinatal death rate — stillbirths or deaths in the first week of life — tells us little about avoid-

able obstetric mishaps. "The perinatal mortality rate is still very largely determined by the social and economic background of the baby. The maternal mortality rate is a better measure of obstetric performance."

Professor Chamberlain adds: "Junior doctors should never feel hesitant to call on consultants for advice — if they are, then it is an indictment of the consultant. However, an analysis of 64 cases where things went wrong is

about as biased as me producing 64 letters from grateful patients as an example of our efficiency."

Mary Newburn, the national secretary of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), believes that the BMJ report should be taken seriously: "We are particularly concerned that in some cases teaching hospitals are not as safe as they should be."

A strange feature of many consultants' working contracts is that while they may be responsible for 800 women at a time, they are not expected to put in sessions on the labour ward.

However, Hinchingsbrook Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has solved the problem of the unsupervised junior doctor by involving consultants in every complicated case. Mr Jonathan Brooks, a consultant obstetrician, says: "If an operative procedure is needed, then it is done by one of the consultants, or under the supervision of a consultant."

"When problems arise in other hospitals, the midwife calls the SHO, who calls the registrar, who may call the consultant," Hinchingsbrook has no registrars. "Our midwife colleagues call us directly if help is needed."

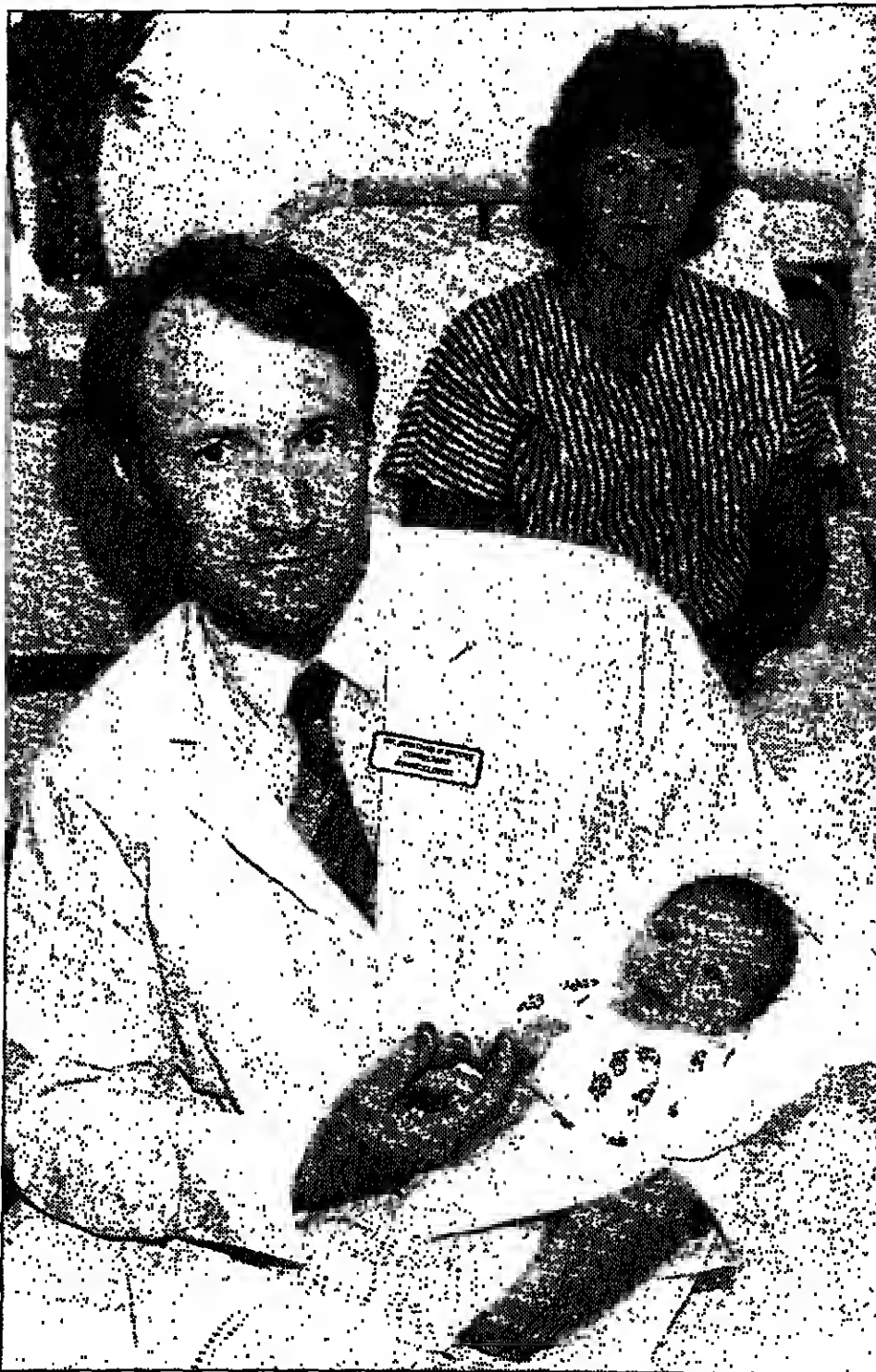
"As a unit," he adds, "we are unique, and very much under the political microscope, because this type of system is cheaper for health authorities to run."

The Hinchingsbrook unit, which delivers about 2,300 babies a year, attempts to minimize obstetric intervention. "All of us are agreed," Mr Brooks says, "that where the antenatal period is normal we interfere as little as possible." However, even at Hinchingsbrook the induction rate (in which labour is started by artificial means) is rather high at 19 per cent.

Both the NCT and the Maternity Alliance, another pressure group, have questioned why out of the 64 cases analysed, there were 24 inductions, 31 cases where forceps were used and 26 Caesarean sections. The researchers said they were unable to assess whether medical technology had been misused, because in many cases the records failed to explain the rationale for the interventions.

Marjorie Tew, a medical statistician who has spent 15 years comparing the performance of hi-tech hospital units with other forms of obstetric care, says: "Only a tiny minority of women need medical intervention."

Mrs Tew, author of *Safer Childbirth*, attributes much of the improvement in mortality



All doing well: Mr Jonathan Brooks with Liza Nicholson and two-day-old Timothy

rates to the fact that mothers are now healthier and better-nourished than in the past. "I don't believe you can show any correlation between intervention and the decline in mortality," she says.

Dr Iain Chalmers, the director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, in Oxford, is one of the three editors of *Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, which challenges the benefits of allowing low-risk women to be cared for by consultant obstetricians. "It is inherently unwise, and perhaps unsafe," the book says, "for women with normal pregnancies to be cared for by obstetric specialists."

Dr Chalmers concludes:

The book includes a list of procedures which is says should be abandoned in the light of the available evidence. This includes the routine enemas and shaving of the perineum which have already been dropped by many hospitals.

However, Dr Chalmers's list of interventions which can help is five times longer than those which cannot. The positive interventions include the use of vacuum extraction rather than forceps for assisted deliveries, because these are less likely to cause maternal injury — one of the problems identified in the BMJ article.

Dr Chalmers concludes:

"The vast majority of pregnant women and their babies are healthy. This places a particular responsibility on people who wish to recommend intervention in back up their recommendations with strong evidence that these are more likely to do good than harm. It is far easier to make healthy people sick than it is to make them better."

● *Safer Childbirth: A Critical History of Maternity Care*, by Marjorie Tew, is published by Chapman and Hall (£14.95).

● *Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth* (£22.50) and a shorter version, *A Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth* (£9.95), are published by Oxford University Press.

## MIDWIFE TEAM'S PERSONAL TOUCH EASES THE PAIN

THE continuity of care provided by a new team midwifery service in Kidlington and Yarnston, Oxfordshire, is creating such confidence between midwife and mother that mothers are needing less analgesia. Some believe that the resulting close relationship and satisfaction may eventually reduce litigation between dissatisfied mothers and hospitals (litigation has doubled over the past five years, and a single case relating to a brain-damaged baby may now cost £1 million). The Royal College of Midwives recently raised members' indemnity cover from £500,000 to £700,000 for a single case.

In the Oxfordshire scheme, mothers (including those with complications) are cared for by midwives they know, throughout pregnancy and in labour itself. In the event of an emergency during labour, the midwife will call in the registrar (who is senior in a senior house officer) or consultant. One consultant is always on call.

The Oxfordshire midwives are a closely knit team, with similar philosophies and a flexible approach. They visit mothers at home, initially to take

the case history but also to lay the foundations of the relationship with the mother. The mother looks after her own notes and takes them to hospital for the routine consultant checks. Regular visits are made to one of three local clinics, where midwives and GPs work alongside each other. At 34 to 36 weeks, each mother has a labour talk at her home, when her wishes and fears are discussed and recorded in her notes.

For Deborah Little this was an enormous relief, as she had experienced a long, difficult labour which ended with a Caesarean section for her first child three years ago in another district. "No one explained what was going on, or seemed to care," she says. "I was very frightened." She discussed these fears with Vicky Bailey, one of the midwives, who along with the others was able to offer her emotional support and alerted the hospital to her anxieties. A Caesarean section was planned and 8lb Stephanie was born. "I enjoyed the birth," Mrs Little says. "I am not tired and I am enjoying the baby."

The scheme is the brainchild of Lesley Page, the director of Oxfordshire's

Midwifery Services. One of the larger local health authorities, Oxfordshire has 6,000 births annually and a midwifery staff of 320. "The standard organization of UK midwifery care is fragmented," Ms Page says. "Mothers see several different medical teams and probably 30 to 40 different faces between the confirmation of pregnancy and the birth."

The midwives on the teams believe that the significant decrease in the use of analgesia in labour (associated with an increase in satisfaction with pregnancy and birth itself) is partly due to the emotional support that they can give during labour, which reduces anxiety. This in turn helps mothers deal with pain more adequately.

Sceptics say that this scheme is elitist and may not be cost-effective, but Ms Page is confident that it will prove to be economical because it will eliminate inflexible staffing of delivery units and reduce the length of hospitalization. If it also reduces litigation, it will be hugely valuable.

PETA LEVI

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# Story of America from scratch

THE ICE-SHIRT calls itself a novel, but this seems like unnecessary genre-mockery. A Nordic saga, a dream-book, a vast pastiche, a travelogue: it crosses genre-boundaries like a virus crossing frontiers. Full of enticements but many more frustrations, it is remarkable, rudely inventive, drunkenly daring, and, finally, intolerable.

It is in fact the first of Seven Dreams, which together (writes Vollmann) will form "a book of North American landscapes", and a "symbolic history" of North America from its earliest days. This history begins for Vollmann in the prehistory and early history of the Norse Greenlanders, and the novel draws heavily on the old Nordic sagas from Greenland and Iceland, moving happily between 30,000 BC and about AD 1600, with occasional sightings of the present day. I have never read anything like it. It makes the old, generational novels of the family sagas, or indeed of the Bible, look like petty domestic dramas with only a few players. There are literally hundreds of fictional characters and historical figures in this book. There are maps and drawings (by Vollmann himself). There are 15 pages of sources (the two chief ones being *The Tale of the Greenlanders* and *Eirik's Saga*) and 23 pages of glossary — but it is also the kind of novel that would cheerfully fabricate its sources and then make a heavy, professional display of its own erudition, just for the fun of it.

**James Wood reviews a way-out Nordic saga, travelogue, and seriously adventurous modernist book that takes some reading**

There are jokes (Vollmann refers to himself as William the Blind throughout the book). It is like Sterne crossed with Pynchon and fed through *Tales of the Vikings*. What is immediately impres-

**THE ICE-SHIRT**  
By William T. Vollmann  
André Deutsch, £14.95

sive about this novel (before one has a chance to recoil from its intricate hubris, its self-involved vastness) is Vollmann's control of various languages — the 18th century travel journal, the epic, the ancient chronicle. Here, for instance, in all its florid typography, is Vollmann's title page. It deserves to be quoted in full:

Seven Dreams ABOUT OUR CONTINENT IN THE DAYS OF THE SUN making Explicit

many "REVELATIONS" concerning Tree and Rivers, Ancestors, ETERNITIES, Vikings, Crow-Fathers, TRESPASSES, EXECUTIONS, ASSASSINATIONS, MASSACRES, Whirlpools-Lives, Love-Souls and Monster-Souls, Dead Worlds Wherein we made FOUNTAINS OUT OF PROLE-HILLS, Voyages Across the Frozen Sea Told COMPLETE with Accounts of Various TREACHEROUS ESCAPES, White Sweet Clover, GOLDEN-ROD & "The First Gang" As Gathered From DIVERSE SOURCES by William T. Vollmann (known in this world as "WILLIAM THE BLIND").

This is good, post-modern fun (note the punning, and the slangy billing of "The First Gang", like a rock concert poster). The language soon settles down however, into irritating mock-epic archaism, inflated diction, ornate phrasing and worst of all, infuriating Nordic compounds. These last are plentiful: "fang-teeth", "sea-wave", "bear-cloak", "just-age" (as in "when Ingald had grown into his just-age"), and even, "quarrelling-age" (as in, "his sons not yet grown to quarrelling-age"). All one can say to this, is that being a vigorous writer, Vollmann sets the language to much word-work under his pen, and so produces a real language-monster. It is impossible to recount the plot of this book, because it is impossible to follow it. One of the problems is the huge fund of Nordic names with which Vollmann buys off the



GLYNN BOYD HARTIE  
Jötunheim

responsibilities of plot. As well as Aalef and Torgils, there is Earl Rollaug, Swanhild Eysteindotter, Aashild Ringsdatter, Eric Bloody-Axe, Thorstein and Gudrid (one shouts "Gudridance" to her when she departs from the text). Freydis Eiriksdottir and a little boy named Angangunguoaq. These names soon melt into one vast Nordic archetype, and after only 50 pages of this kind of thing one longs to set sail for the land of William the

Blind (Vollmann lives in America) and wage war on him. Vollmann's dream soon becomes a reader's nightmare. What is problematic here is that, like science fiction, *The Ice-Shirt* uses the liberties and licence of the romance-genre (the fantasy, the archetypal characters, the gnarled language) but then, unlike romance, refuses to connect with reality in any meaningful way. With romance, the interest is precisely in its relation to reality,

the small reality gap between the text and the world. But Vollmann's text has no relation to the world (let alone to anything as specific as the North American landscape). It relates only to itself, to its own childish intricacies and toys, to its complex scaffolding of names and sources. It gazes into the pool, sees only itself, and promptly falls in love with what it sees. I picture Vollmann sitting somewhere in California, monkishly isolated and imprisoned by

the enchanting web of his own fabrications — or perhaps like the caged monkey Nabokov wrote about which, when encouraged to communicate with humans on paper, could draw only the vertical bars of its cage. This is sad, because *The Rainbow Stories*, Vollmann's last book, proved that he is capable of better things. It is time for his publishers to dissuade him from writing another six dreams, and unlock him from his cell.

THE STORY is familiar enough. Victor is young, talented, and dying of leukaemia. Hilary is by his side, deeply in love, helping him await his untimely death. As in Erich Segal's *Love Story* (twinned with this novel in the publisher's blurb), the lovers are not social equals: Victor's circle is rich, Ivy League, and full of young women divorcing polo players, whereas Hilary has no WASP credentials, and shoplifts. Nor do they let their differences lie in *Dying Young*. There is as much smashing of glass and slamming of doors as there is mopping of brows and plumping up of pillows.

Beside vigil though it is, one need not fear for one's heartstrings — at least, not until the end. The dust-jacket may be littered with comparisons to *Death in Venice* and *Terms of Endearment*, and the setting may be depressive, out-of-season New England coastline, but this is a searing novel because it eschews the pull of sentimentality for the busyness of "real life". Sadness is there all right, but like piped music at a rush-hour station: all but drowned in relentless activity. There is Gordon, for instance, a married man who falls for Hilary and befriends Victor, thereby forcing an extraordinary love triangle. Gordon offers Hilary solace, a straightforward relationship in contrast to the "mass emotional confusion" of life with Victor. And then there are the intrusions of Estelle and of Victor's father, who thinks (like his son used to) that mutant blood cells are as conquerable as fresh-man physics or Sunday hangovers. What raises *Dying Love* from the formulaic tear-jerking novel of

## A love story with blurb and blubbing

Sarah Edworthy

**DYING YOUNG**  
By Marti Leimbach  
Hamish Hamilton, £12.99  
**MUESLI AT MIDNIGHT**  
By Aidan Mathews  
Secker & Warburg, £12.95  
**THE LOVERS AND THE LOVED**  
By Harriet Crowley  
Heinemann, £12.95

popular appeal is Leimbach's sense of individual will: her characters honour their instincts at whatever cost. Hilary voluntarily exposed herself when she answered Victor's ad for a nurse/companion: anything to escape home. Victor willingly abandoned chemotherapy because it had made him feel his body was merely hospital property: his point was that self-preservation can exist only as long as one feels there is a sense of self to preserve. Gordon claims Hilary despite the feelings of her dying lover. One feels Victor's decline page

by page. Every incidental detail hits a nerve, from his vomiting of "rust-red" blood to his psychological monopoly on the affection of all around him. One image in particular embodies the sense of a wasted, vibrant life. Annoyed by his obsession for shooting rats, Hilary makes Victor bury the noisy antique gun that he has oiled and shined for years. Later in the novel, as his health deteriorates, she thinks of it "lying in the damp earth rusting. This, in my quiet way, I asked for." The end of this remarkable first novel is deeply affecting.

Muesli at Midnight tackles the same themes of sex and death, taking in religion and throwing out story-line. Theo and Felicity are two medical students cycling around Ireland with a skeleton of the Archbishop of Dublin on their tandem, raising money for a cancer charity. From hotel to prison to a house, Theo is forever theologizing "such is life"; Felicity is full of observations such as "wondering is very feminine; conversely, femininity is a wonder". Her motto is "if in doubt, undress", just as Theo, ultimately, thinks that the bottom line of life

is the line of Felicity's bottom. The novel's interest is in word-play, bawdy banter, the chateau wines of language, the sex of words. And there are some good bits. Like the moment when Felicity threw her eyes to heaven — "that was the closest she ever came to metaphysics". And some cringing bits — "her breasts were beautiful, like nothing on earth, the despair of metaphor". Thank God for that, you think, after an overdose of gratuitous cleverness and fascination for assonance. Somehow one feels — to join in on the word-play — one has been taken for a ride.

In contrast, Harriet Crowley's *The Lovers and the Loved* is a cosy world of career worries and dry cleaning tickets. Puffed as being strongly autobiographical, it is a hymn to unmarried motherhood: all gurgling smiles and no teething problems. Eleanor Wynne, a successful portrait painter, longs for a husband and children, but discovers they don't come easy. She finds potential husbands generally are good-looking, nice — and criminally dull. Lovers, like the flamboyant opera director Vincent Buonarroti, can be ugly, wicked, and unworthy. But when it comes to fulfilling her natural right to become a mother, who cares? This novel is a low-key, warm-hearted meander through the international art and opera world, and you can tell Miss Crowley (a one-time parliamentary candidate) is a good politician, for Eleanor's variegated artist's world is paralleled by the single motherhood of one of her punk house models — "that's a laugh, innit? I mean, you and me, knocked up and no dad in sight!"

ANOTHER novel about the troubles of the English middle classes might sound like a bad idea. Is there anything left to say? But it's what can't be said that interests Isabel Colegate. *Decets of Time* is marvellously alert to the repressions and evasions that surround the English and their sense of the past. When Catherine Hillery is commissioned to write a biography of a Thirties politician, the task promises to be straightforward. Neil Campion was a hero. Blue-eyed and glamorous, a flying ace in the First World War, later a Junior Minister in Churchill's cabinet, his early death in a road accident seems to put a tragic stop to a life marked for greatness.

What Catherine finds instead is a tangle of blocked aspirations and concealed passions that transforms her sedate biography into a thriller. The surviving family has spun a web of remembrance to answer its own needs, and it gives a sour welcome to any attempt to intrude on their private images. Campion, too, turns out to have lived according to a hidden dream that evolved into a nightmare. And even Catherine, biographer become detective, is forced to confront injustices created by fabricating memories she has brooded over for years. *Decets of Time* warns of the beguiling dangers of romanticism, that most English of vices. But it does so with a light and compassionate touch. It is a mark of Colegate's distinction that the book's bleak revelations are finally poignant rather than repellent.

Gabrielle Donnelly takes a brisker line. *Faulty Ground* is a rapid and confident novel, with an engaging relish for the hazards of

## Sedate biog turns thriller

PAPERBACKS

Dinah Birch

**DECETS OF TIME**  
By Isabel Colegate  
Penguin, £4.99

**FAULTY GROUND**  
By Gabrielle Donnelly  
Penguin, £3.99

**THE GENERAL INTERRUPTOR**  
By Alex Martin  
Penguin, £4.99

the games people play. Professor Susan Barnes, competent and self-contained, is about to embark on a new edition of *Emma* when the ceiling of her London flat falls in. Made homeless by builders and plasterers, she decides to take herself and her books to her cousin's house in Los Angeles. She soon finds that the endless Californian sunshine throws a new light on the constraints of her very

English existence. California makes Englishness look small.

A bewildered response to the seductive freedoms that California offers solidifies into something harder and colder, as Susan realizes that she too can snatch a version of Californian well-being. But it would be at the expense of her moral identity, for the expansive horizons of this enchanting country rest on uncertainty and violence. The luxurious houses of Susan's new friends are all built on a fault. Susan — who emerges as an old-fashioned girl, after all — learns that she can never find a home among the golden folk of Los Angeles. *Faulty Ground* celebrates the bruising processes of self-recognition. This is a book in praise of faith, though it is only in escaping English perspectives that Susan can perceive where her own loyalties lie.

Alex Martin also writes about the need to see England from a foreign perspective. Paul Smith feels trapped by his respectable job in London. He horrifies family and friends by fleeing to the sunlight and cheap wine of Italy, where he earns a sybaritic living as a teacher of English. His amorous and professional adventures are recorded with style and wit. But an undertow of melancholy tugs at the pleasurable exuberance, for *The General Interruptor* is a novel about exile. Paul finds he cannot stomach the drab limitations of an English life bounded by instant coffee and the national obsession with television, yet he remains a perpetual stranger in Italy. A conventionally happy ending is proposed, but it rings hollow beside the sombre note of alienation which haunts this book.

## Femcop of windy city

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

**BURN MARKS**  
By Sara Paretsky  
Chato & Windus, £13.95

THIS YEAR it's Paretsky's turn to be discovered. All the elements are present: glossy press packs, the author's visit to England, innumerable media interviews, comparison (if a woman) with P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, and some statement somewhere to the effect that the writer, far from merely churning out terrific crime books, is in reality one of the most serious and important novelists of our time. It's all a bit bewildering to those of us who have been quietly plugging Paretsky for years — Burn Marks is her sixth. Has she suddenly stepped into another league? Has she — a not unknown phenomenon when praise is overvalued — begun to have pretensions above her station? Happily, no to both questions. *Burn Marks* is superb but familiar; feisty private eye Vic Warshawski grows more interesting, quirky, and admirable with every story; and Chicago is proving to have layers of decadence and corruption that not even Los Angeles can match. The city is an essential character in all Paretsky's novels, rather than a mere setting and backdrop. In *Burn Marks* it's local election time, and Warshawski is reluctantly drawn in to an old friend's tainted candidature; and she is warned off looking too deeply into the fire that burned down her eccentric aunt's cheap folk hotel. Warshawski, of course, stubbornly continues, with the usual unpleasant consequences to her peace of mind and bodily safety. She is tough, feminine, competent and occasionally very silly; irresistible.

● *Death's Darkest Face*, by Julian Symons (*Macmillan*, £12.95). The format is old-fashioned and initially off-putting: the author, Symons himself, is reading a manuscript by a chap who has just died. Geoffrey Elder, written during the Sixties but looking back to the unexplained disappearance, in the Thirties, of rakish poet Hugo Headley. Both Elder and the armchair Symons investigate;

the former, it turns out, is also — perhaps primarily — seeking the truth about his father. In less expert hands such a complex exercise, involving constant switching between the atmospheres and mores of several decades, could have been disastrous. But Symons is such a master of time, mood, and character, and continues to write with such finesse that complexities are overtaken by admiration for another in a line of superior crime novels.

● *The End of Lieutenant Boruvka*, by Josef Skvorecky (*Faber*, £12.99). Boruvka is a splendidly melancholic homicide cop in Prague, around the period of the Dubček spring and Soviet invasion. He has a 16-year-old pregnant daughter, incompetent colleagues, and masters whose decisions are often politically rather than professionally founded. The book's five tales of murder work wonderfully as straightforward criminal investigations; but there's an inevitable political underlay — the original was published in 1975 during the dark years (though not in Czechoslovakia itself). Read it how you will, it's witty and entertaining. Boruvka is a true original.

● *Sweet La-La Land*, by Robert Campbell (*Mysterious Press*, £12.99). This is the part of Hollywood that the films don't emphasize — the hookers and junkies, and the private eyes that work on much meaner streets than Philip Marlowe ever knew. Whistler is one such gumshoe. His love from 15 years ago reappears at the same time as a convicted treble-

murderer with a grudge is released on parole; and a psychopathic killer is on the loose. Not edifying subject matter, I grant you, and the climax is not vicarious tea party stuff, but Campbell writes with a compelling power.

● *Listening In The Dark*, by Celia Fremlin (*Gollancz*, £12.95). Newly divorced, still distressed middle-aged woman opts for new life in grubby boarding house full of assorted misfits, one of them with a dark secret which starts slowly to emerge. Fremlin is good at portraying tangential uneasy relationships, and very good indeed at weaving an atmosphere of encroaching sinister tension.

● *The Nominative Case*, by Edward Mackin (*Macmillan*, £10.95). Lively, literate, joky tale of death in history, literature, and the English department up for grabs, an illiterate and violent student demanding to be passed or else, and plagiarized poems sent to obscure journals.

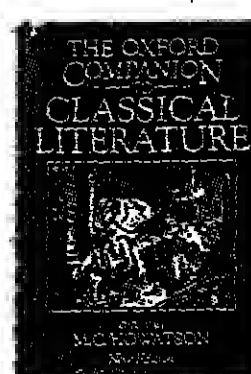
● *The Dwarves of Death*, by Jonathan Coe (*Fourth Estate*, £12.95). Punchy, disturbing story of a not very good (but Andrew Lloyd Webber hating) pianist witnessing bizarre killing in seedy Islington flat; the motive is buried in an obscure song from the punk era. Coe is strong on describing London's musical underclass, and the places where ever-hopeful, broke, unsuccessful musicians go to drink, listen, and make bad demo tapes; but the hero William is too wimpy for the milieu.

● *A Temporary Ghost*, by Mickey Friedman (*Gollancz*, £12.95). American journo Georgia Lee Maxwell travels to farmhouse in Provence to ghost the memoirs of a tempestuous socialite, universally believed to have bumped off her rich hubby, but never charged because of her lover's stout alibi. Georgia Lee's presence provokes new confidences, fresh evidence, and unsuspected motives.



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## ARTS

## LITERATURE

# Publish and be damned brave

Bookseller Ike Ong talks to Clive Davis about his plans to publish long-neglected Gothic novels and George Eliot's collected poems

What's the most unusual title that a customer has asked for? Ike Ong, owner of Skoob Books, does not need much time to find an answer. "It was a book about the sex life of homosexual mice."

That, you may be glad to hear, is one title that Ong will be avoiding in his new role as one of London's newest independent publishers. Based at his two popular shops around the corner from the British Museum, the Malaysian-born bibliophile has unveiled an imprint of his own, aimed at the serious readers and browsers who frequent his premises in search of rare or out-of-print books.

"In the early days there was nothing unusual about booksellers being publishers too," he avers. "We're fed up with seeing the Americanization of publishing. All these corporate take-overs are pushing out the quality books. Publishing is something that Britain has always excelled in."

These are bold words at a time when the publishing industry is going through one of its deepest depressions. With an editorial staff of six, Ong is planning an idiosyncratic selection which will include 18th-century Gothic novels, the collected poems of George Eliot and a turn-of-the-century account of Australian life, written by Hwang-Ung, a travelling Mandarin. About a dozen titles should be available by the end of the year.

The books hardly sound like the stuff of best-seller lists, but Ong and Lucio Jenkins, his literary editor, are confident that there will be a market for them, particularly among academics and specialists. The Gothic novels, for instance —

Francis Lathom's *The Midnight Bell* and Peter Teuthold's *The Necromancer* — were the pulp fiction of their day, full of dark castles and absurd twists of plot. Jane Austen satirized the genre in *Northanger Abbey*, mentioning the two books by name when Catherine Morland, her heroine, drools over a list of leisure reading: "Are they all horrid?" she squeals. "Are you sure they are all horrid?"

Today, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is regarded as the archetypal Gothic story. According to Ong and Jenkins, the less celebrated potboilers were actually far more representative. "It's always interesting to trace back this kind of popular fiction," Ong adds. "The Stephen Kings of today are influenced by Victorian writers such as Bram Stoker (author of *Dracula*), who grew out of the 18th-century tradition. The Gothics may not excel in literary terms, but they work in the thriller context — though it is a typical 18th-century style, not your snappy James-Bond-type read."

Skoob first tried its hand at publishing in 1987, when it issued its *Directory of Secondhand Bookshops*. The new list is to be divided into four sections: Literature, Art, Oriental and — reflecting the shop's ample stock of books on the supernatural — Esoterica. As for a catalogue, there is *Skoob Review*, a literary and cultural magazine which contains extracts from various titles.

Most hopes are being pinned on George Eliot's *Collected Poems*, due out in August, which is said to be the first comprehensive collection ever put into print. The book is Jenkins' pet project; to gather some of the more obscure

items involved correspondence with the custodians of the Eliot collection at the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Yale. Eliot scholars will no doubt be delighted, but are the poems really as important as *Adam Bede* or *Middlemarch*?

"If you'd asked me if they were as good," Jenkins replies, "I would have had to say no. But important? Yes, definitely. Many of the poems are like skeleton keys to whole chapters. There is a series of sonnets, for instance, that uses the same themes of brother-sister relationships as in *The Mill on the Floss*. They are very autobiographical."

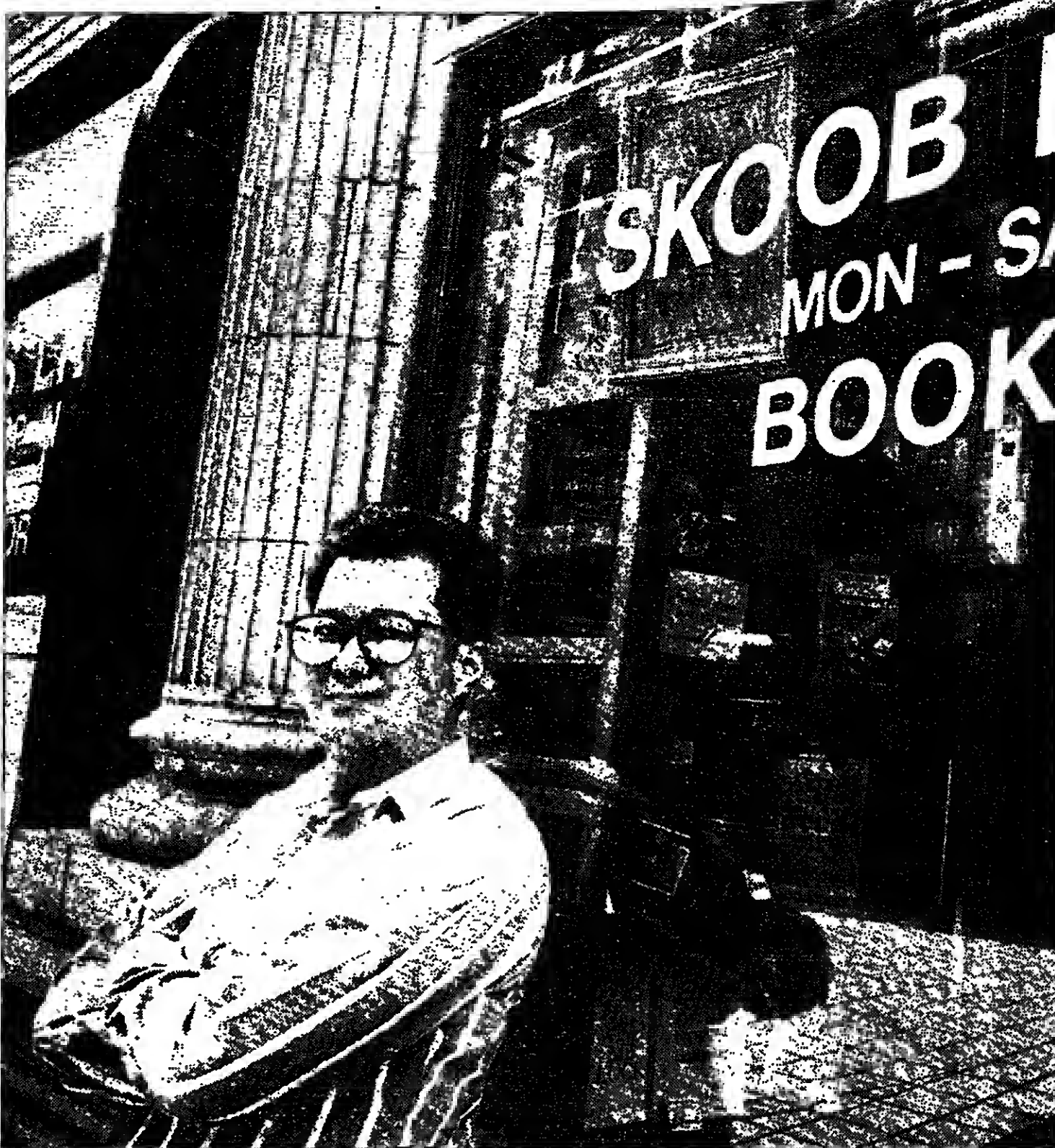
Whether the company can flourish in these unsettled times remains to be seen. Barry Shaw, editor of trade magazine *The Bookseller*, was impressed by the *Directory*, but points out that the market for new books is still overloaded.

He says: "There's hopeless overproduction — about 60,000 titles being published each year — and not really much demand for them. Small firms do well when they specialize. Where they come unstuck is when they try to sell in lots of different subjects."

However, specialization does not appeal to Jenkins. Skoob, he says, does not want to be associated with one particular type of book.

"In a way we're trying to make the jump into the High Street in one go. It will take two years to make it work. What we really need is a supply of wealthy relatives, who die off and leave us the Georgian porcelain."

● Skoob Publishing Ltd is based at 13 Stettin Avenue, London WC1, (071-404 3063).



Publisher/bookseller Ike Ong outside his premises. "We're fed up with the Americanization of publishing."

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: LITERATURE

**KEN SMITH:** One of our finest poets, who once described the state of British poetry as "flags rotting in cathedrals" and who then set out to stimulate "a generous and real poetry being written in these here islands". He has always been incisive, formally imaginative and topical.

**Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston (0502 255168), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50).**

**NEIL BARTLETT, JAMES KELMAN AND RUEL WHITE:** Neil Bartlett (his version of *Berenice* is currently on at the National Theatre, London) with bright young Scottish writer, James Kelman (*A Disaffection* published last year) and Ruel White, whose first novel *Heroes Through the Day* is launched this week. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223), tomorrow, 8.15pm, £2 (£2) plus £1 membership.

**AORIAN CLARKE:** Clarke is an intriguing experimental writer, as his excellent collection *Shadow Sector* (1989) bears out. His poetry bristles with syntactical and typographical inventions. He performs well, often with deadpan humour.

**The Prince of Cumberland, Albany Street, London NW1 (081-340 6224), tomorrow, 8pm, £2.50, £1.50.**

**SEAMUS HEANEY:** Current Oxford Chair of Poetry and best-selling Irish poet reads in conjunction with the exhibition *Contemporary Poets' Portraits* by Peter Edwards.

**National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-936 0355), Sat, 3pm, free.**

**HAY-ON-WYE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE:** Last week of this major literary festival. Douglas Adams and Maggie Gee, authors of the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Grace*, present a talk entitled "Message to the Planet" with Owen Dudley Edwards (Kiln Court, Marquess, Fri, 5pm). The Horror Renaissance: James Herbert, Peter James and Clive Barker, three highly

successful practitioners of the fastest-growing literary genre, fantasy and horror, discuss our fascination with concepts which disturb and unsettle (Kiln Court Marquess, Sat, 3.30pm). **Beowulf:** Julian Glover's acclaimed performance of the longest surviving long-poem in the English language (Festival Theatre, Sun, 8pm). **Melvin Bragg and Fay Weldon:** Melvin Bragg reads from his new novel, *A Time to Dance*, and talks about eroticism in literature with Fay Weldon (Festival Theatre, Mon, 6pm). Further information: 0497 821293.

**HAN SUYIN:** Novelist, renowned scientist and military historian from China. *Tigers and Butterflies*, a new collection of essays which range from perceptive analysis of social changes in Asia to witty reflection on computers and homophobia, testifies her status as Asia's leading woman of letters. She talks to John Gittins.

**ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0493), today, 1pm, £2 plus £1 membership.**

**VOICE BOX: POEMS BY GAY CLIFFORD:** Germaine Greer presents the poetry of her long-time friend Gay Clifford (tonight). Nadine Gordimer, acclaimed South African novelist and short-story writer, author of *A World of Strangers*, *Something Out There* and *The Essential Gesture*, reads from and discusses her work with Arts Council Director of Literature, Dr Alistair Niven (Sun).

**The Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50).**

**SPECIAL EVENT — CENSORSHIP AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WRITER:** PEN International, a world association of writers, presents this forum. Featured speakers include Nadine Gordimer, Larry McMurty, Lady Antonia Fraser, Ronald Harwood and William Shawcross.

**Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Sat, all day from 10am, £11 (includes morning coffee). Tickets from PEN International: 071-352 9549.**

**JAMES BERRY:** A fine and distinctive poet who shares with other West Indian

British poets "an intense concern with clarifying the West Indian group memory, re-defining the person, clearing away the fog of history, exposing the people's roots and reality". He has edited two influential anthologies to further this purpose, *Bluefoot Traveller* and *News for Babylon*. He will read from his current writing.

**The Blue Moose Café, 78 Mountgrove Road, Highbury, London N5 (071-354 3655), Tues, 7.45pm, £3 (£2).**

**POETRY LIVE '90:** The final week of this ground-breaking season. Roy Fisher and Carol Ann Duffy: Fisher is an extremely astute poet with a wonderful knack for fusing unlikely combinations of deceptively easy lines into tough poems. The rapidly rising Carol Ann Duffy completes a very strong programme.

**Old Hall Hotel, The Square, Burton (0298 83289), Sat, 7.30pm, £3.50, £1.**

**FOUR IRISH POETS:** One of the foremost Gaelic poets, Michael Davitt, who should read at least some pieces in Gaelic, in company with poet, broadcaster and dramatist, Patrick Galvin, the doyenne of Irish poets, Eileen NI Chuilleanáin (*Acts and Monuments* and *The Rose Geranium*) and the author of *The Hanged Man* was not Surrendering. *Maschera Woods*.

**Corner House, Oxford Street, Manchester (061 226 2463), tonight, 8pm, £2.50 and £1.50.**

CRIS CHEEK

## TELEVISION

## One pair of eyes, and too many tails

THE loo writer, struggling in apparent solitude to recall a distant, lyrical childhood while attended by a latter-day camera crew of several dozen people was, 25 years ago, one of Alan Bennett's earliest television parodies, and makers of tele-autobiography still have to live with its promise of pseudure. There is also the fear of what the childhood-recaller may discover on his native doorstep. "I am Robert Morley and I have come home at last," said my then-60-year-old father with a television team ooo, to an astounded Julian Bream who had merely been unwisely enough to open the front door of what had been Robert's house in Wiltshire.

Undeterred by such memories, BBC Northern Ireland last night started a new series in which four Irish novelists recall their *Hidden Ground*. William Trevor's was a small seaside town in County Cork, Mitchelstown, famous for martyrs and processed cheese.

But all his fictio is, in a sense, the recollection of the personal, and Trevor's debt to the claustrophobic market towns of his youth

was evident in his every encounter with one-time neighbours. A world of boarding-house blues and face-curtained mysteries, wonderfully evoked by Trevor's clenched, oostalgic prose, was captured by a programme well within the old and much-missed format of "one pair of eyes".

"A man shot himself near here — his life was hell. Shame is the state his daughter lives in." There is a universe of loss in a Trevor sentence, and his point here was not about oostalgia itself but that state of childhood curiosity in which the writer always lives, knowing that what happened there has happened forever.

When you get, as we all too rarely do, a film of autobiography by a real writer, you suddenly realize how far the art of television documentary script-writing has been allowed to slump into the automatic instant cliché of the oostalgic. To see Trevor painstakingly punching out his words on a vintage portable typewriter, apparently dating from about 1932, was also to understand that the more easily the phrases glide

onto a word processor, the more glibly boring they often prove to be. The other great advantage of Trevor, of course, is the familiarity television has already given to his work; we know the folk in Mitchelstown, and Youghal and Skibbereen.

On BBC 1, *Inside Story* last night told of pest-control operatives, otherwise known as rat-catchers. Several warm woters and our increasing carelessness about waste disposal have led to a 29 per cent rise in the rat population, so that there are now as many of them as there are of us.

What is more, they are getting bigger: in France they have oow got them three feet long. They also breed so fast that each one can produce another hundred per year.

Seventeen people died in Britain last year from diseases caused by rats, and in Hackney alone six meo go into battle with them every day on behalf of the local council. One Pinteresque lady considered putting concrete down her drains to defeat the rodents; she came to the conclu-

sion that the solution might simply lead to other domestic problems. What we evidently need, is a Pied Piper operative, paid for by the poll tax.

Addicts of Gothic horror will have had an enjoyable 50 minutes of the real thing, but when you have seen one sewer rat in close-up you have seen most. Unlike the operatives we met last night, very few rodents seem to die of old age or weight problems, nor are they much inclined to emigrate or improve their social standing. Instead they rampage through sewers, eat their way through plastic bags, become sexually mature at two-and-a-half months, and totally fail to behave according to local by-laws. Those who have to deal with them, whether rodent operatives or householders, are bound together by a cheery resignation to the inevitability of infestation and proliferation.

Any day now, you mark my words, the rats will be running their own underground cable television network, specializing in movies by Stephen King.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

## GIAMBATTISTA TIEPOLO

Drawings from the collection of the Circ museum in Trieste

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## ARTS

## CINEMA

## Second-hand plot, two careless owners

David Robinson reviews the latest films, including *We're No Angels*, *The Vanishing* and *The Punisher*, and concludes that the best cinema on offer this week is an NFT tribute to the veteran Nicholas Brothers

The most notable feature of *We're No Angels* (15, Plaza 2) is its script credit: "written by David Mamet, suggested by the movie *We're No Angels* written by Ronald MacDougall, adapted from the musical *My Three Angels* written by Sam and Bella Spewak, based on the play *La Cuisine des Anges* written by Albert Husson."

What is most remarkable about this extended literary pedigree is that the screenplay has practically nothing in common with any of these forebears, except for the basic notion of escaped convicts who accidentally find themselves committing good deeds. A more appropriate acknowledgement would have been to *Bruder Orchid*, in which gangster Edward G. Robinson took refuge in a monastery disguised as a monk. The new film is nothing more than a transatlantic *Nine on the Run*, set (for no very good reason) in 1935.

Robert de Niro and Sean Penn are prisoners in a tough penitentiary satirically ruled by the late and regretted Ray McAnally. Unintentionally involved in a break-out, they seek refuge in a monastery on the US-Canadian



Priestly passion? Robert De Niro, disguised as a priest, pursues an uninterested Demi Moore in Neil Jordan and David Mamet's *We're No Angels*

border where — the script's most desperate challenge to probability — they are taken for visiting theological scholars.

It is hard to believe that the unimpeachable plot developments that ensue, the naive moralizing and the dull dialogue are by the same David Mamet who (quite apart from his career as playwright and screenwriter) wrote and directed the memorable *House of Games* and *Things Change*.

Nor would it be easy to recognize the work of the director of *Angel*, *Mona Lisa* and *The Company of Wolves*, if it were not for the more recent and less happy memory of Neil Jordan's last essay in comedy, *High Spirits*.

Comedy, it must be admitted, just does not seem to be Jordan's forte. Certainly he seems to give his leading actors very little help.

Sean Penn gets by with a one-note performance of wide-eyed idiocy, but Robert de Niro is spectacularly unfunny — mugging desperately and resorting to repetitive mannerisms. Demi Moore plays a woman to whom he is attracted.

The look of intense suffering which is De Niro's most frequent expression may, of course, reflect his additional role as executive producer of this unfortunate film.

The best value among this week's releases is George Sluizer's *The Vanishing* (12, Metro, Cannon Chelsea, Tottenham Court

Road), a Dutch production, though with mainly French dialogue. This is a cool, stylish psychological thriller, with a particularly horrifying twist in the tail.

It confronts two obsessions: that of a young man whose girlfriend disappears while they are on holiday in France; and that of the man who abducted her, for reasons which only become apparent as the film goes on.

Tim Krabbé's script moves from one man to the other, detailing the cat-and-mouse game which will inevitably lead to confrontation. The abductor, played by Bernard Pierre Donnadieu, is a fascinating and chillingly convincing creation: a quiet-spoken chemistry teacher, who leads a model family life while planning his perverse crimes with pedantic precision. Sluizer has a sense of fun, also: even the perfect criminal can encounter unforeseen hazards, like mistaking his daughter's P.E. teacher for a potential victim.

The excuse that it is based on comic strips hardly justifies the excess of sadistic incident in *The Punisher* (18, Cannon, Haymarket, Panton Street, Oxford Street). The carnage is non-stop, a holocaust as people are mown down by machine guns, impaled by daggers, spears or cross-bows, strangled, kicked, hanged, or

beaten to death — all with vivid sound effects.

Dolph Lundgren, with a voice strangely like his mentor, Sylvester Stallone, plays a former cop, run maverick after the killing of his wife and children, and claiming victims by the score in a one-man war against the underworld.

This ludicrous and brutal farago — undoubtedly destined to spawn a succession of sequels — seems to have been filmed mostly in Australia, which explains why the Sydney skyline does service for New York, and some of the supporting actors are clumsily lip-synched. *The Punisher* was directed by Mark Goldblatt, from a script by Sam Yakin.



Elegant: The Nicholas Brothers in *Down Argentine Way*, showing at the NFT on June 4

## Dancing duo still on tap

With not too much to see in the commercial cinema, the National Film Theatre is offering a weekend of nostalgia with the Nicholas Brothers, perhaps the greatest of all American jazz dancers. Many who do not even know the name will certainly recall their cameo appearances in innumerable American musicals, up to *The Pirate*, in which they danced a memorable trio with Gene Kelly.

Their most characteristic numbers were set on stairways, which they danced up and down, generally climaxing the act by sliding down the balustrade, landing, in somersault or splits, with the same precise co-ordination that marked all their teamwork.

Many believe that they could have usurped the place of Fred Astaire if it had not been for the handicaps which dogged black

careers in America of the Thirties and Forties. The elegance and precision of their work led to the myth that they had had ballet training. They did not, although they reckoned it a high point of their career when they were directed in a show by George Balanchine.

They were raised in the theatre — their parents played in a vaudeville band in Philadelphia — and learned dancing from watching legendary black artists such as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Fayard, the elder, was a film fan, which is why his younger brother was christened Harold Lloyd Nicholas.

Harold was only ten in 1932 when the Nicholas Brothers were first engaged by the Cotton Club, where they developed their jazz dance style with orchestras such as Duke Ellington's and Cab

Calloway's. They first came to London for *Blackbirds* of 1936, and subsequently played the Palladium several times.

The National Film Theatre is showing three of their films including the 1941 *Swing Valley Serenade*, with the memorable "Chattanooga Choo Choo". On Sunday afternoon the Nicholas Brothers are on stage, in person, giving a *Guardian* lecture and on doubt intent on dancing. Now respectively either side of seventy, both are still hard at work. Harold performed in the recent Hollywood film *Taps*, and Fayard just received a Tony award for his choreography in the Broadway hit, *Black and Blue*.

Details of the Nicholas Brothers film screenings and lecture at the National Film Theatre, situated beneath Waterloo Bridge, London SE1 can be obtained on 071-928 3232.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**ARSENIC AND OLD LACE** (Warner, PG): Joseph Kesselring's repertory theatre warhorse about murderous spinsters, splendidly filmed by Frank Capra in 1942, with much straining for laughs. Raymond Massey and Peter Lorre come off best in an over-worked cast.

**THE GORGON** (RCA/Columbia, 15): Hammer horror whodunit, set in a village whose population is being turned to stone. Stronger on atmosphere than shocks; worthily acted by Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee and company, all with commendably straight faces. 1964.

**IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD** (Warner, U): Stanley Kramer's fatiguing epic with a host of comic luminaries chasing after buried money. Individual moments please, but at three hours plus, the viewing experience resembles being locked in a cell with a pneumatic drill. 1963.

**JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY** (Castle, 15): The 1958 Newport Jazz Festival, attractively caught on film by photographer Bert Stern. Musical highlights range from Anita Day and Thelma Houston to Chuck Berry and Mahalia Jackson, raising the roof with *The Lord's Prayer*. 1981.

**THE SAGA OF NOGINN THE NOG — TALES OF THE NORTHLANDS** (BBC, U): Two gentle, delightful 40-minute adventures from Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin's animated series of the Sixties, before children's television lost its innocence in a bedlam of noise and speed.

**THE SEA HAWK** (Warner, U): Errol Flynn as the Robin Hood of the seas, preying on the Spanish in the time of Good Queen Bess (Flora Robson). Exuberant swashbuckler from the genre's heyday, with ear-tinging music from Erich Wolfgang Korngold. 1940.

**SECRETS** (MCA, 18): A day in the life of a London couple facing a marital crisis (Jacqueline Bisset, Robert Powell). Wistful stuff, directed in 1971 by Philip Saville; it seemed state even at the time.

**SIESTA** (Palace, 18): Inordinately foolish tale of a daredevil artist in a daze in Spain. Ellen Berlin gives everything she has, but Mary Lambert's direction shows the worst excesses of music videos. Soundtrack features Miles Davis. 1988.

**SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN HUMAN BEINGS** (MGM/UA, 18): Ludicrous tale of human fireballs, exuberantly handled by director Tobe Hooper, with Brad Dourif as the unfortunate offspring of parents used as guinea pigs in an atom bomb experiment. 1990.

**WORKING GIRL** (Palace, 18): Mike Nichols's attractively light-hearted social satire, with Melanie Griffith as the secretary zooming up the Wall Street ladder. 1988.

**HISTOIRES EXTRAORDINAIRES** (Castle, 18): Three Poe stories, unevenly filmed in 1967 by Roger Vadim, Louis Malle, and Federico Fellini, whose flamboyant episode with Terence Stamp easily dominates the proceedings.

**HOW TO MURDER YOUR WIFE** (Warner, PG): George Axelrod's wild comedy about a cartoonist (Jack Lemmon, bubbling over) whose own life turns into a comic-strip. Frenziedly dated, but still engaging. 1965.

**THE MISSOURI BREAKS** (Warner, 15): Arthur Penn's rewardingly strange Western, stamped with the idiosyncrasies of writer Thomas McGuane and two stars (Marlon Brando, Jack Nicholson) allowed to go way over the top. 1976.

GEOFF BROWN

## Parental guidance is for censors, not children

Audiences in Europe will see the same version of David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* as the jury at the Cannes Film Festival which decided to award it this year's Palme d'Or. But to ensure mainstream distribution in his homeland, the American director will have to cut out some of the steamier sections, or it will be stigmatized with an X-certificate.

That would put Lynch, director of *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet* on a par with the makers of hard-core pornography. In recent months, American censors have slapped X-certificates on Peter Greenaway's *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, Pedro Almodovar's *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*, and John McNaughton's *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*. Martin

James Bone on a dispute over the United States film rating system

Scorsese's new *Good Fellas* is also renowned to face an X-rating.

All are victims of a crisis in the American ratings system, in which a secret panel classifies films as PG (parental guidance suggested), PG-13 (parental discretion advised for under-13s), R (under-17s not admitted without parent or guardian) or X. With the R certificate virtually ignored, the censors have begun using the X-certificate to keep minors out of the cinema for more violent or erotic offerings.

"Under-17s are going to all the time," Lynch said. "What happens, though, is that one goes home and has a nightmare and the parents are very upset. They then

call the MPAA [Motion Picture Association of America], who don't say 'Why did you let your child go?' They say, 'Next time a film like that comes here, we're not going to allow it.' The studios allow it because everyone who goes in brings another six bucks."

Although both *Midnight Cowboy* and *Last Tango in Paris* thrived despite being rated X, the certificate has since been devalued by widespread use by pornographers. As a result, many newspapers will no longer accept advertisements for X-rated films, and many cinemas will not show them. That makes mainstream distribution of an X-rated film

extremely difficult. Lynch himself was contractually committed to provide the producers of *Wild at Heart* with an R-rated film, and so has no choice but to make the alterations.

But *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* and *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer* were all released unrated, after being branded X. That effectively limits their distribution to "art houses".

Miramax, which made both Greenaway and Almodovar's films, has sued the MPAA to rescind the X-rating on *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*. Miramax Productions has filed a similar suit

to change the classification of its *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*.

William Kunstler, the veteran civil-rights lawyer, who is representing Miramax, is presenting the case for a new certificate, somewhere between R and X. The new rating, Kunstler says, "would designate a picture with strong sexual components, but one in which sex is not used for sex's sake". Jack Matthews, film editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, has proposed that such a certificate be A—for "Adults Only".

Jack Valenti, the MPAA president, who created the ratings system in 1968, is unyielding. "In 22 years, the ratings system has survived criticism," he says. "And it will survive future legal challenges as it has in the past."

## Salutary lesson from Turkey

David Robinson on Turkish cinema and its struggle against video competition

Turkey may have its problems in gaining full membership of the European Community, but where the film business is concerned it shares and even prognosticates the general European predicament.

Turks are keen film-goers. Ticket prices are low. However deeply they tend to immerse themselves in the film, audiences still cheerfully accept the custom of arbitrarily interrupting it half way through, so that everyone may troop outside to eat, drink and smoke.

Until four or five years ago this enthusiasm sustained a national production of 200 or more films a year. Then came a sudden drop in the box office as videos took over — the craze largely begun by workers returning from West Germany.

Matters took a different turn two years ago, when new regulations permitted the major American distributors to set up offices in Turkey for the first time. They came, bringing a backlog of big box-office pictures that had never played in Turkey.

Since discovering Stallone and Michael J. Fox, audiences have flocked back into the cinemas — but only for American films. A Turkish film can now no longer attract an audience unless it has picked up some reputation at

foreign festivals and consequent media coverage at home. European films have even less chance.

The result has been a 50 per cent drop in national production, and a drastic reduction of European film imports. Even though Turkish films are made very cheaply — the average budget is around \$100,000 — producers have a hard fight to recoup costs from television and video sales alone.

The government has stepped in with 50 per cent subsidies for up to 30 films per year, the favoured projects to be selected by an independent selection committee. In these difficulties the annual Istanbul Film Festival takes on a political significance unusual for this kind of cultural event.

The publicity attached to the national competition and prizes may well guarantee exhibition at least for a few Turkish films. The government has also agreed to buy for television a proportion of the foreign films shown, thus maintaining some kind of foothold for European films.

The repertory of Turkish cinema has changed radically, as much in response to social changes as to falling box-office returns. A few years ago the staples were rural comedies and Wild West-style adventure dramas. Now intimate sentimental dramas of bourgeois and professional life have taken over.

The most interesting films tend to be those which take advantage of recent relaxations to censorship to look back over successive eras of political oppression. One of these, Yusuf Kurşun's *Blackout Nights*, describing the adventures of a poet on the run from the secret police in the final days of the Second World War, won the Istanbul Festival prize as best Turkish film of the year.

Apart from its interest as a showcase of national production, the festival attracts an impressive international turnout. Its selection criteria are original: entries must in some way relate to creation in other arts.

This year's prize-winner — one which is certain to turn up at British festivals — was *Flame of Pomegranates in the Cane*, an outstanding debut by a young Ibraoio director. Sa'ied Ebrahimi. It evokes the atmosphere and observes the minutiae of everyday Islamic life, fascinating the spectator with breathtaking images.

Tomorrow: Two views of the Venice Biennale, from John Russell Taylor and Adrian Dannatt. Plus David Toop on the musicians behind the rock stars on stage

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# Method without danger

## THEATRE

### Burn This Hampstead

IT IS quite an accomplishment for a tiny theatre two miles north of Shaftesbury Avenue, even for one with Hampstead's reputation, somehow to persuade John Malkovich, as fashionable an actor as any in America, to recreate a role he originally played on Broadway in 1987. But there, alas, applause must stop.

Lanford Wilson's play has not grown with time, and on last night's evidence, Malkovich's performance has become fastidiously shrivelled.

At root, *Burn This* is a sentimental variation on the Beauty and the Beast myth, itself not the most tough-minded of fairy-tales. Anna, a dancer, has lost the homosexual male partner who inspired her best work. As Juliet Stevenson plays her all woebecone and forlorn, her professional future seems as bleak as her personal one. The heterosexual in her life, a rich scriptwriter unpromisingly called Burton, clearly does not fire either her heart or her feet.

At this point Malkovich makes his aggressive entrance, hammering down her apartment door, delivering a long, irrelevant tirade against New York's parking problems, and revealing himself as the ex-partner's macho brother and look-alike, all before dawn has broken over the Lower East Side. This is his and the play's most exhilarating moment: a pity, since nine-tenths of Robert Ackerman's production is to compare the production to the play's erotic geography. Beauty must fall for



Shrivelled performance: John Malkovich as Pale and Juliet Stevenson as Anna in *Burn This*

the Beast, who must unwillingly display a sensitivity belying his verbal violence. Indeed, the Beast must push Beauty to awesome new creative heights. While the other characters are still blundering about without compasses, they must somehow struggle to their true emotional destinations.

It is hard to make such a story plausible, doubly so when Wilson is so disavowing a writer. Paddling is the second main problem. Much of the banter and reminiscence is amusing in itself, but tends to check the play's visceral thrust.

One of the four main characters, a gay flamante amiably played by

Lou Liberatori, is too obviously there for the wry, self-deprecating humour he gratuitously provides. And Malkovich? Occasionally he displays one of his primary strengths, which is for playing a human grenade with the pin half out. But generally his performance is much less dangerous, less explosive than in New York. True, he is on a much more cramped stage. Too many of those punches in the air and lashes of the foot, and he might seem overblown, histrionic.

Yet too much low droning, hoarse mumbling, and quiet burbling is scarcely better. It, too,

comes to seem mannered, actorish, especially when it is combined with deliberate little sports and sniffs and scratches of the nose. We see more of the character's emotional exuberance than we did on Broadway, but less of something more essential, his frustration, resentment and suppressed anger. Compare Malkovich to Stevenson, so direct and robust despite some lack of sexual energy, and the real trouble is evident.

This is the Method becomes monotonous — too many trees, not enough good, broad wood.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Much Ado About Nothing

### Open Air, Regent's Park



Carl Johnson as Benedick

KING Charles I renamed his copy of this play *Beatrice and Benedick*, but it is the director's responsibility to make sure we are not so intrigued by the sparring lovers that we discount the "much ado". In Lindsay Posner's straightforward production, opening the 1990 season, the balance between the witwomongers and the troublemakers is established, but where the two moods inter-penetrates and comedy veers into high drama at Hero's supposed death, the audience is not prepared.

For this reason, Beatrice's demand "Kill Claudio!" is met with merry laughter. Nervous laughter is understandable, but not the assumption that the play has gone back to telling jokes.

In the scene that follows, Posner also misjudges the tone by bringing on what we take to be Hero's funeral procession with beavers

singing a "Miserere", and turning it into a cod-operatic interlude to antics with Dogberry's Keystone Cops. The comedy of this play is shot through with serious notes and sadness. And though the temptation may be to pump up the laughter, it is one that should be resisted.

In most other respects, and accepting a stiff Hero by Tilly Blackwood, this is a charming production. Julian McGowan's set is unattractive, a plywood arcade of giddy perspective, trying to fool us it is a conservatory. It cuts off the rocks and paths to the rear of the stage and restricts the action to a semi-circle of green cloth. The arcade does eventually open to become the east window of a church, but this is not a design that exploits the natural setting.

The costumes are turn-of-the-century, with the men in cavalry uniforms or Norfolk jackets and the women resembling Shaw's heroines. Carl Johnson's husky-voiced Benedick has something of the bounce of an H.G. Wells hero,

Kipps or an upper middle-class Mr Polly, who remembers the courtesy due to a lady by allowing the last word of a combat to Susan Tracy's Beatrice — a charmer with a roguish smile.

The production's senior characters are particularly well done. Patrick O'Connell's Leonato and John Hart Dyke as his gallant brother marriage the difficult bridge between outrage at the insult to Hero and their comically incompetent attempt to avenge it. Des McAleer's Don John, too, combines the proper sourness of aspect with dapper elegance.

Pip Donaghy as Don Pedro and Martin Clunes as a brainless Claudio work attractively with O'Connell in the gulling scene, where Johnson's Benedick hides behind a headless, armless garden statue, covering its parts with his hands when the plotter's talk embarrasses him.

This production is not, as I have indicated, without faults, but it is agreeable enough and on a balmy May evening the time passes pleasantly.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## NEW RELEASES

DREAMS (PG): Akira Kurosawa's fantasia on themes of violence, ecology, and the artist's urge to create, a lush, naive, but a visual feast. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

HARLEM NIGHTS (R): Tired, vulgar parody about a nightclub threatened by a corrupt crime boss and an unscrupulous vehicle for Eddie Murphy (ambiguously serving as writer, director and star). With Richard Pryor. (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

KING OF THE WIND (U): Peter Dinklage's picturesque family film based on the real-life adventures of an 18th-century mute Arab boy (Nash Chowdhury) and his horse. With Nigel Hawthorne, Jenny Agutter. (U) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

LOVERBOY (R): Patrick Dempsey as a hairy pizza delivery boy with a hairy heart. (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

THE WITCHES (PG): Rod Taylor's tale of witches attempting to turn children into mice. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

## CURRENT

BLACK RAIN (R): Crime story directed by Ridley Scott about a hooded New York cop (Michael Douglas) pursuing a corrupt cop (Al Pacino). (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian town. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY II (PG): Comical cut-up in the Kalahari desert with a bunch of evildoers' finest, an African and his pet crocodile. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

Branch, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, John Doherty. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine commander trying to defect. Ponderous pre-planned drama. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (R): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of mystery and corruption. (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

JOHNNY HANDSOME (R): Gering, unsympathetic action leader from director Walter Hill, with Mickey Rourke as a disfigured criminal who plans a double-cross following plastic surgery. With Ellen Barkin. (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

THE WITCHES (PG): Rod Taylor's tale of witches attempting to turn children into mice. (PG) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

BLACK RAIN (R): Crime story directed by Ridley Scott about a hooded New York cop (Michael Douglas) pursuing a corrupt cop (Al Pacino). (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (R): Intimate comedy about an unmarried man and his wife. (R) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3365).

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# Gorbachov seeks trade, not aid, from the West

From Mary Dejevsky in Ottawa

PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachov said yesterday that the Soviet Union wanted trade and not aid from Western countries and he cited Soviet Canadian trade as a model for mutually advantageous co-operation.

Speaking at a luncheon in the Canadian capital, Ottawa, before leaving for the United States, the Soviet leader also voiced implicit criticism of the United States for its continued reluctance to grant the Soviet Union trading privileges.

Earlier, after his second round of talks with the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, he accused the West of failing to offer any new ideas on the military alignment of a united Germany. "We have heard no new alternative from the West," he said. "It seems that they are playing the same record again and again and it is stuck on the same note. We hope we can get over that hitch and find a new melody."

Speaking in his lunch toast of the need for co-operation on the basis of partnership, Mr Gorbachov said: "We say very clearly that what we want is not Western help but co-operation on a mutually advantageous basis in shaping a new economy for our country."

He went on: "Re-integrating it fully into the world economic context is, we believe, necessary and advantageous to all." Mr Gorbachov also rejected what he called eco-

nomie isolation. "We are ready to depend on other countries," he said, adding "to the extent that they are prepared to depend on us."

In oblique criticism of the United States, Mr Gorbachov said: "It should be emphasised that neither the Soviet Union nor Canada has ever tried to politicise trade and economic relations or question the need to develop them on the basis of equality and mutual advantage."

The United States had been expected to sign an agreement on most favoured nation status for Moscow at the Washington summit but pressure from the Senate has led to its postponement because of the Soviet economic embargo against Lithuania.

The total value of Canadian-Soviet trade last year reached Can \$800 million (\$444 million) with grain accounting for three-quarters of the value of Canadian exports. On the eve of Mr Gorbachov's visit Canada announced that it was advancing another Can \$500 million in credit to the Soviet Union in the current year.

Before the formal lunch, the Soviet leader spent two hours in his second round of talks with Mr Mulroney. As the two leaders met in the Canadian parliament building, about a thousand people with Lithuanian and Estonian flags demonstrated in bright sunshine on the lawns in front of the building. They were addressed by leaders of Baltic émigré



Warm welcome: President Gorbachov responding to a boisterous reception at Ottawa airport from flag-waving schoolchildren after his arrival for a two-day visit

organizations in Canada and a member of Canada's government office for minority rights. Placards read: "Freedom for the Baltic States - Red Army Go Home", "Gorbachov's glasnost is a hoax", and an enormous yellow banner said: "Beware Moscow, the Ukraine is rising."

In his lunch speech, the Canadian Prime Minister referred only indirectly to the question of Baltic independence, noting that current conflicts and challenges were

"preferable to the sterile situation of our troubled and dangerous past."

Mr Mulroney also stressed the value of NATO which, he said, still served a necessary purpose. He noted: "We believe that the participation of a unified Germany in NATO would enhance and not diminish the security of the Soviet Union."

Looking ahead to the Washington summit, he expressed the hope that a formula could be found to "accommodate the undeniable security interests of the

Soviet Union". In the morning, Mr Gorbachov and Mr Mulroney had walked side-by-side through enthusiastic crowds to the parliament building after a ceremony at the War Memorial to honour Canada's war dead.

The previous evening, Mr Gorbachov and his wife, Raisa, had staged one of their longest ever walkabouts in a city centre shopping precinct. The walkabout, among a crowd of about 1,500 people, lasted more than an hour as Mr Gorbachov stopped to talk

and argue with Baltic supporters waving flags, an Afghan supporting the Mujahidin and journalists wanting to know his reaction to the election of Mr Boris Yeltsin as Russian president.

Security men hovered as the Gorbachovs scorned the prepared route and went into the crowds by themselves. A group of small boys sprang on to Mr Gorbachov's Soviet Zil limousine, trying to open doors and windows. The chauffeur and guards - from the crack Soviet ninth police

directorate - answered their questions and let them handle the controls until the Gorbachovs returned.

● WASHINGTON: President Gorbachov, marking a thaw in Soviet-South Korean relations, will hold a historic meeting with President Roh of South Korea in California during his US summit visit, US officials said yesterday (Susan Elliott writes).

Relations between the two countries were harmed by Soviet support for South Korea's adversary, North Korea,

which triggered the three-year Korean War in 1950 when it invaded its southern neighbour with soldiers equipped with Soviet weapons.

Links between Moscow and Seoul started to improve two years ago following the staging of the Olympic games in the South Korean capital.

Last year, the Soviet Union and South Korea agreed to establish consular offices in their capitals. In addition, both countries signed an agreement on airline services this year.

## EC calls for 21p rise in British petrol prices

By Kevin Eason  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is calling for the price of petrol to be increased by as much as 21p a gallon in Britain in a move which would give a substantial boost to the environmental campaign to cut pollution from cars.

The Government has so far fiercely resisted the EC blueprint for the harmonization of duty on fuels, fearing the consequences on inflation even though the price changes could be phased in over two years in time for the opening up of the single market.

Motor manufacturers and "green" campaigners now believe that the Government might be softening its stand after Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement last week signalling her determination to stabilize emissions of carbon dioxide, a major cause of global warming. The EC proposals, still under discussion in Whitehall and Brussels, would mean an increase of about 20 per

cent in the price of four-star leaded petrol, about 21p a gallon (4.7p per litre), while duty changes on unleaded fuel could take the price up by about 16p a gallon (3.6p per litre). Diesel, however, would fall by up to 16p per gallon (3.5p per litre), creating a substantial differential in line with the price gap seen on most continental forecourts.

The Automobile Association yesterday vigorously opposed the EC plan, saying it would add millions of pounds to industry's costs and substantially increase inflation. Mr John Anderson, who heads the AA's department of government and European affairs, said: "There are many options that the Government will examine before going for such large price rises suggested by the EC. Business users would suffer immediately."

Volkswagen, Europe's second largest manufacturer, running a major environmental conference in Whitehall and Brussels, would mean an increase of about 20 per

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## Gummer protest as French ban beef

Continued from page 1  
EC's scientific veterinary committee has endorsed the steps we have taken and these have the approval of the European Commission."

In Paris, M Henri Nallet, the French Agriculture Minister, who last year was a guest at Mr Gummer's Suffolk home, said the ban was aimed at "reassuring French consumers that the meat they buy is free from all infection" and would be maintained "until the British authorities provide sufficient guarantees."

M Nallet described the ban as "an extremely difficult and rare decision" which had been taken after consultation with the European Commission and the British Ministry of Agriculture, but he did not explain why France had waited until such a late stage to impose the ban. A cattle

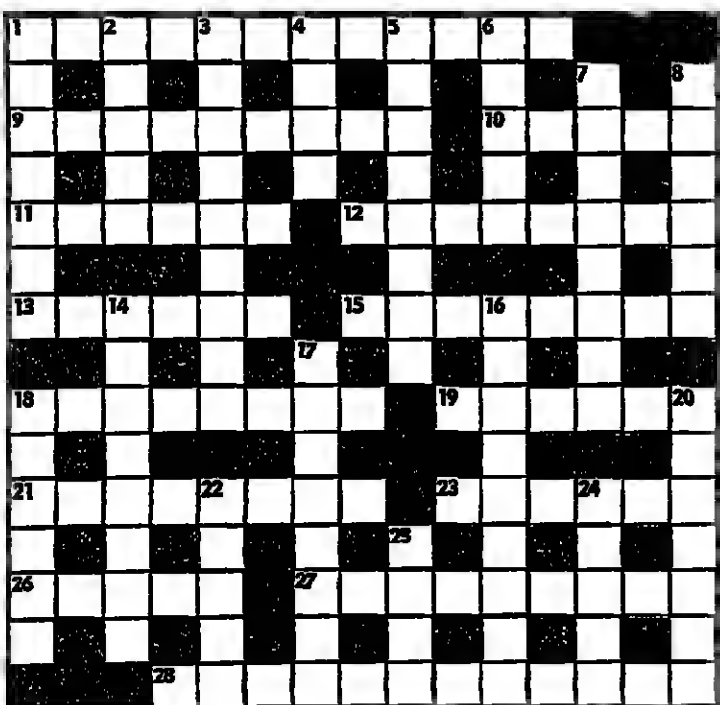
veterinary expert interviewed on French television last week claimed that French farmers would never "be foolish enough" to feed their cattle a meat-based diet - a reference to the belief that "mad cow" disease was caused in Britain by cattle rations containing the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, a related condition.

Many French vets, however, suspect that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) may exist in the French herd but has not yet been diagnosed.

France is believed to have imported huge quantities of British cattle feed containing sheep protein at bargain prices after its use was banned in Britain in July 1988.

About 13,500 British cattle have had to be destroyed after developing BSE.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,308



- ACROSS**
- 1 Irrational fear may be seen in sinister port (12).
  - 9 Sea-going cutter? (9).
  - 10 Female left-winger accepted by soccer authority (5).
  - 11 Use some beef for this (6).
  - 12 Strong supporter (8).
  - 13 Hell can bring this! (6).
  - 15 Having political divisions - the fashion in Panama perhaps? (8).
  - 18 Where to have a pint after Choral Evensong naturally? (8).
  - 19 American beauty queen is a married woman (6).
  - 21 Their strange period establishing historical tradition (8).
  - 23 Creepy-crawly goes back in the bath on return? (6).
  - 26 Letters selected initially as a source of enlightenment (5).
- DOWN**
- 27 Greek character, girl, is received by royal personage (9).
  - 28 Remark about Post Office beginning to slip is not daft (6,6).
  - 1 Pay out to retain us - or deal thus with payment if broke? (7).
  - 2 Top of prison twice used for demonstration! (5).
  - 3 Bird touching bread put out on street (9).
  - 4 Tour to rush along, missing nothing (4).
  - 5 Islander will get brown going around Hatti possibly (8).
  - 6 Dyke builder has left refuse (5).
  - 7 Colours afresh material with bad stain (8).
  - 8 Business alliance allowed Rex and Bill to get turnover (6).
  - 14 Start of summer leading to nudity or revealing wear (8).
  - 16 Read out story with quiet ending (9).
  - 17 Jacks start to cheer their leading vessel (8).
  - 18 Let fags do their worst? It's fashionable to get heady! (6).
  - 20 Little people should be shut up - right little devil? (7).
  - 22 Trunk can come out of roots (5).
  - 24 One who deduces God's existence from the swirling vides? (5).
  - 25 What's in Palm Sunday's collection for distribution on Maundy Thursday? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,307

BARUSHKA ACCORD  
E L T I D A W I  
CAUTIONARY TALE  
O E P K O B E C  
MASTERY PAINTER  
E T N L R E  
BOLD FACE DEBIT  
E N S A C A  
IDIAN ZAPPALE  
O U E C L L  
ADVISED REGULAR  
P C P C A  
METRICALLY  
E A C D E N N  
RELATE CREDITON

Concise crossword, page 13

## WEATHER

There will be a lot of cloud to start the day across the country. Northern Ireland, western parts of England and Wales and western Scotland will hold on to the cloud throughout the day. Rain and drizzle will fall over Northern Ireland, western Scotland and, perhaps, northern England, too. Elsewhere, it will be dry, with sunny intervals later. Outlook: turning rather more unsettled.

### ABROAD

MIDDAY	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Algeria	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### AROUND BRITAIN

Sum	Rain	Min	Max	Wind	Cloud
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- XYSTUS**  
a. A jacks' portico  
b. A primitive zither  
c. A carpenter's plane
- XOANON**  
a. The Phoenician letter X  
b. A primitive zoo  
c. A wooden statue
- KABAYA**  
a. A loose tunic  
b. Secret, sacred writings  
c. Women's quarters
- DENNET**  
a. A female corset  
b. A light gig  
c. The Welsh turnip

Answers on page 18

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Cires.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 18C (68F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 8 pm, 66 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar: mean sea level, 8 pm, 1,020.1 millibars, rising. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, 10.0 mph.

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 22C (72F); lowest day temp: Llanelli, Wales, 11C (52F). Highest rainfall: Douglas, Isle of Man, 0.4 in. Highest sunshine: Yarm, York, 6.4 hr.

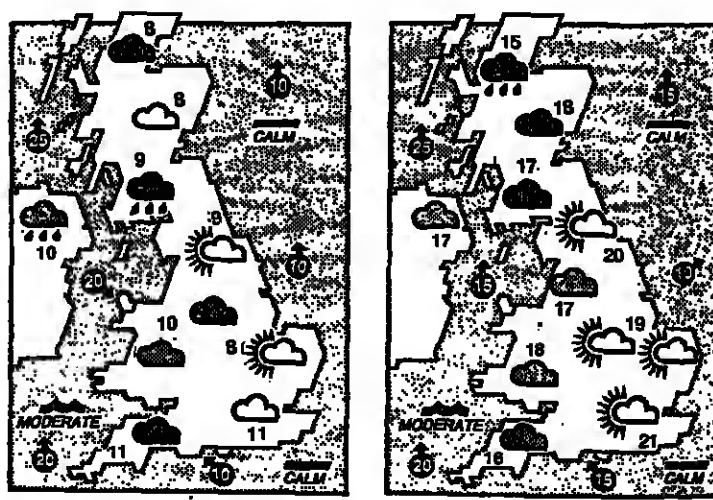
### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 17C (63F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 8 pm, 66 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.0 hr.

### GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 18C (64F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 8 pm, 66 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.0 hr.

## AM PM



## LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.07 pm to 4.48 am  
Belfast 5.15 pm to 4.55 am  
Edinburgh 5.45 pm to 4.35 am  
Manchester 5.20 pm to 4.47 am  
Penzance 5.22 pm to 5.16 am

## YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.  
Belfast 15.5C (60F) Guernsey 14.5C (58F)  
Birmingham 15.5C (60F) Jersey 16.5C (62F)  
Blackpool 15.5C (60F) London 17.5C (64F)  
Cardiff 15.5C (60F) Manchester 17.5C (64F)  
Edinburgh 17.5C (64F) Newcastle 18.5C (65F)  
Glasgow 15.5C (60F) Rotherham 17.5C (64F)

## TOWER BRIDGE

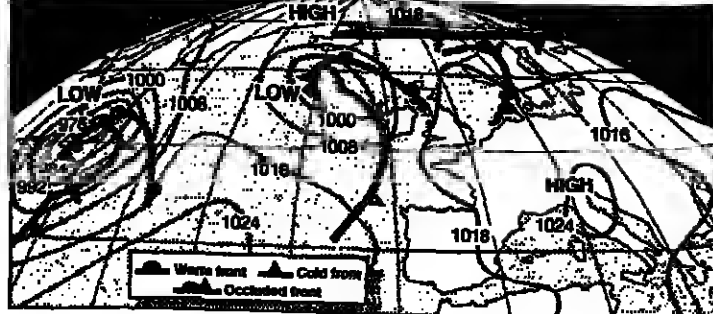
Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 8.00 am and 11.00 am.

## HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.49	5.8	8.03	6.2	Liverpool	6.07	5.2	5.47	4.7
Aberdeen	7.24	5.5	8.24	6.4	Lowestoft	3.56	2.1	3.24	2.3
Amnouth	12.49	10.9	1.18	10.5	Margate	6.04	4.2	6.09	4.5
Belfast	5.12	3.2	6.18	2.8	Norfolk Haven	—	—	12.30	6.5
Cardiff	12.24	10.5	1.04	9.8	Newquay	—	—	11.55	5.7
Dartford	11.55	4.5	—	—	Orkney	—	—	11.55	5.7
Dover	5.04	3.8	6.27	5.7	Penzance	—	—	11.25	2.9
Falmouth	11.25	4.2	11.40	4.5	Portsmouth	11.11	4.5	11.27	4.7
Glasgow	8.02	4.7	7.12	4.1	Portsmouth	12.13	1.7	1.05	1.4
Harwich	5.42	3.8	5.55	3.5	Southampton	5.27	4.0	6.29	4.2
Headland	4.21	4.8	5.13	4.5	Shroton	4.58	5.1	6.43	6.4
Hull	12.12	6.2	12.12	6.5	Southampton	5.02	3.8	5.54	4.0
Isle of Man	12.28	5.4	12.28	5.6	Swansea	12.01	8.0	12.53	5.7
King's Lynn	5.50	4.8	5.26	4.7	Tralee	9.53	4.8	10.45	4.5
Leith	—	—	—	—	W. New-Alex	4.42	2.8	5.56	3.7

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST.

## NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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## Glaxo's R&D 'at record level'

GLAXO, the drugs group, said that its research and development programme had made significant progress during the last 12 months, with three marketing approvals received and five product licence applications made.

Dr Richard Sykes, the R&D director, told analysts and institutional investors: "The level of (R&D) activity is unprecedented for us and, I believe, any pharmaceutical company." But he gave no figures.

An important compound had entered a development programme for the treatment of peptic ulcers and another for general anxiety.

Glaxo has seven compounds in nine full development projects and 17 in exploratory development. Analysts welcomed the R&D update.

Mr Ian Smith of Shearson Lehman Hutton said: "It confirms Glaxo as one of the world's leading drug companies."

## Leucadia offer for Molins fails

Leucadia has lapsed its 275p-a-share cash offer for Molins after securing only 45.47 per cent acceptances when its offer closed - but it remains determined to fight on.

Molins says it would agree to a meeting with Leucadia if the agenda was "sensible and constructive." But it would resist attempts to have three non-executive directors of Molins removed and replaced by five Leucadia nominees. Molins' shares slipped by 5p to 270p.

Any attempt by Leucadia to remove Molins' directors through an extraordinary meeting would also be resisted.

## Dunhill jumps

Dunhill Holdings made pre-tax profits of £60.6 million (£45.5 million) in the year ended March 31 on a turnover up from £194.4 million to £240.2 million. A final dividend of 3.5p (2.5p), payable on July 19, makes 5.5p (3.75p). *Tempus, page 23*

# Market surge adds £9bn to share value

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARE prices soared on the back of a record-breaking Wall Street and a tough speech from Mr John Major, the Chancellor.

Almost £9 billion was added to the value of companies trading on the London stock market with the FT-SE 100 index jumping 50.6 points to 2,346.2, an increase of 2.2 per cent. The rise came on top of a 30-point jump on Tuesday.

Some 548 million shares changed hands, compared with 328 million on Tuesday. Dealers in London were encouraged by New York's rise of almost 50 points on Tuesday night to a new high and signs that the Tokyo market is recovering. London was given a further boost when the Dow Jones index opened 10.91 points higher yesterday.

The market was also helped by comments made by Mr Major to the annual ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

He told the OECD meeting that the gap between inflation in Britain and that of other nations is far narrower than the statistics imply, because unlike other countries Britain's retail price index includes mortgage interest pay-

ments and it is also distorted by the poll tax.

He said that Britain's underlying rate of inflation was about 6% per cent compared with an average through all EC states of about 5% per cent.

But he insisted that Britain's inflation is still too high and that a further rise in British interest rates cannot be ruled out if it is needed.

"When there is scope for interest rate reductions, their pace will be determined by our determination to ensure not just that inflation comes down... but also that it stays down," he said.

"In the meantime, if I judge it necessary, a further rise in interest rates in the UK cannot be ruled out."

The Chancellor indicated that inflation remains the only real barrier to Britain's entry to the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, has consistently said Britain will join the ERM of the European Monetary System "when the time is ripe" and last June split out conditions for entry at a summit of EC leaders in Madrid.

Restrictions on the movement of foreign exchange in Italy and France have since been removed, satisfying one

of the "Madrid terms" imposed by Mrs Thatcher.

But another important condition, that Britain's inflation rate comes down to nearer the EC average, has still to be met.

Speaking to a press conference at the OECD meeting, Mr Major announced that the pound will join the ERM when Britain's underlying inflation "is on a downward trend and a little closer" to the European average.

The Chancellor still refused to set a date on entry. "There are a whole series of intangibles in the decision."

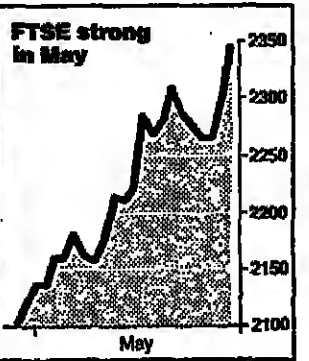
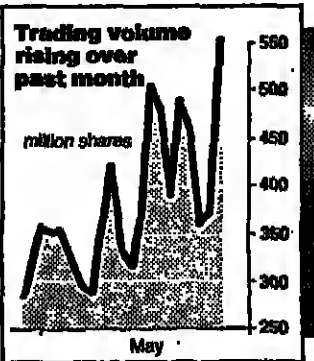
He said: "It is potentially a turbulent matter for a currency the size of sterling to go into the ERM, and we believe it is not only in the interests of sterling but of the mechanism to go in at the right time and on the right terms."

Sterling had been riding high yesterday morning as there was speculation that Mr Major was about to announce a policy shift in Paris. Sterling fell back after it became clear that he had no intention of making an EMS statement.

Sterling rose to \$1.7060 from \$1.6950 overnight at one stage but finished a shade down at \$1.6940, and at 89.4 on the trade-weighted index. Against the German mark, it hit DM2.8587 from DM2.8340 at the previous close before falling back to DM2.8442.

Mr Major denied that the pound's recent strength jeopardizes ERM membership. "Sterling is half of 1 per cent below where it was in October so I frankly do not think it has reached an unsustainable value," he said.

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## NIESR expects inflation will fall to 5% next year

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which has crossed swords with the Government over economic policy in the past, has forecast a sharp improvement in the economy next year.

The institute, in its latest Review, expects inflation to fall to below 5 per cent by the final quarter of next year and growth in the economy to pick up to 2.7 per cent.

The balance of payments deficit is now expected to be about the £15 billion level forecast by the Treasury in the Budget rather than £11.5 billion forecast by the institute in February. But the institute still expects it to fall to £9 billion next year. Unemployment may rise from 1.7 million to 1.8 million.

This attractive prospect depends heavily on the assumption that Britain joins the ex-

change rate mechanism of the European Monetary System in the first half of next year. On that basis, bank base rates are expected to fall steeply to 14 per cent by the first quarter and 11 per cent by the end of the year, bringing down mortgage rates and retail price inflation in their wake.

In the shorter term, the outlook has deteriorated. Inflation will peak at 9%-10 per cent and will still be 8.8 per cent in the final quarter of this year. Growth in the non-oil economy this year will be only 0.8 per cent. The underlying level of inflation as measured by the gross domestic product deflator will rise from 6.3 per cent this year to 6.9 per cent next.

The institute cautions that the fall in interest rates as a result of ERM membership may have to be offset by tighter fiscal policy. But it

believes that Britain should not join at too ambitious an exchange rate. The real exchange rate is currently too high for balance of payments equilibrium and the pound should not be encouraged to rise before entry. On the contrary, the Government is likely to need to realign the currency downwards before arriving at a final exchange rate for monetary union.

Staying outside a European monetary union would threaten both the financial leadership of the City and Britain's attractiveness as a place for inward direct investment. Foreign financial institutions would find it troublesome to locate where local costs were not predictable in terms of Ecu, and US or Japanese firms would be deterred from choosing Britain as a European location by exchange rate uncertainties.

## Interest rates hit Speyhawk

By OUR CITY STAFF

SPEYHAWK, the property group, has reported lower interim profits from sharply higher turnover in "difficult" market conditions.

Pre-tax profits fell to £6.1 million in the six months to March 31, from £10.1 million previously. Turnover soared from £45.6 million to £83.3 million.

The company said margins were reduced by a combination of higher interest rates,

slower sales and reduced prices. The interim dividend is being maintained at 3.5p.

High interest rates had slowed tenant demand, especially in secondary locations. The group's primary objective has been to complete work in progress on time and on budget and to find tenants for its properties.

The prime nature of the portfolio has helped achieve substantial success, while site acquisition and development

staff have been reduced. Financing of projects is secured against the development itself with limited recourse, the company's interim statement tells shareholders.

The group also has a £120 million revolving credit facility, which provides adequate resources for the foreseeable future. The company was operating comfortably within the limits of its financing and funding arrangements.

## Taurus 'may cost 3,000 jobs'

By MICHAEL TATE  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BETWEEN two and three thousand City jobs are likely to be lost in the next two or three years as London's International Stock Exchange switches to a paperless settlement system.

Up to 95 per cent of the backroom staff in the City's securities houses will no longer be needed when the Transfer and Automated Registration of Uncertificated Stock (Taurus) system is fully operational, by the end of 1993.

The Taurus system will save the British securities industry about £54 million a year in staff costs, according to a study prepared by Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte, the accountancy firm, for the ISE. Over ten years there could be

a saving of about £230 million, the report adds.

Under the Taurus system every share transaction will be handled electronically. The costs of buying and selling shares will be cut and the process will be faster. This is expected to lead to an increase in business.

"History suggests that as transaction costs go down, the number of transactions goes up," Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, the ISE chairman, said.

The system, which envisages the establishment of an independent clearing house for the settlement of equity transactions, in which the ISE would have a minority interest, received backing from the exchange last year.

No decision has yet been reached on who should control the settlement

service, although Mr Hugh Smith reaffirmed that the ISE was committed to diversifying ownership of the clearing house "as and when the securities industry is ready." Meanwhile, it will be financed by the exchange, said Mr Peter Rawlings, ISE chief executive.

In a separate section of the report, the Bank of England argues that failure to address the settlement problem could threaten the UK's standing as a financial centre.

"Dematerialization" day is scheduled for October next year. Shareholder approval will be needed, and the ISE believes companies should be able to put the matter to the vote at next year's annual general meetings.

Cutting dealing costs, page 23



Looking east: Barrie Stephens, who sees opportunities for Siebe in Eastern Europe

## Warburg caution as profit jumps 68%

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SG WARBURG Group, the banking, securities and fund management group, raised pre-tax profits by 68 per cent to £187.5 million in the year to end March, a year which Sir David Scholer, the chairman, said included a wide variety of market conditions.

But Warburg shares fell 6p to 424p against the market trend because Sir David said the excellent results might not be repeated as the high rate of corporate deals had slowed: "We are not expecting to make £187.5 million again this year - but we might," he added.

The dividend has been raised by 20 per cent to 15p out of fully diluted earnings up 64 per cent to 49.9p per share. Sir David said the corporate finance and equity businesses had made impressive contributions and that treasury operations had done particularly well in a difficult year for currency and money markets.

More than half of the group's major transactions were in overseas markets or for foreign companies. Warburg calculates that 47 per cent of its employees work abroad.

Mercury Asset Management, the separately quoted fund management subsidiary, raised pre-tax profits by 40 per cent to £59.1 million, widened profit margins and increased funds under management to £32 billion.

Dividends have been raised to 22.6p out of fully diluted earnings up 37 per cent to 54.3p per share. Mr Peter Stormonth Darling, the chairman, said this reflected good investment performance.

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## Bowater seeking £140m in rights

By OUR CITY STAFF

BOWATER Industries, the printing and packaging to building materials group, is seeking £140 million from its shareholders to finance overseas acquisitions.

The cash will be raised via a fully underwritten one-for-four rights issue at 425p a share.

Explaining the move, Mr Norman Bowater, the Bowater chairman, said he believed there were "opportunities to make further acquisitions at sensible prices in the UK, Continental Europe and North America." The company was continually reviewing potential acquisitions.

Mr David Lyon, the chief executive of Bowater, said later that the group had no particular acquisition in mind, but that it was sensible to have the money "in our hip pocket" for when it might be needed.

Mr Lyon added that the next deal was more likely to be in the field of coatings and laminates, the smallest of the group's four core activities, representing just 12 per cent of group assets.

The City expects Bowater to pounce in the US, where successful UK bidders like BTR, Hanson and Tomkins traditionally use cash.

Bowater, which in March reported pre-tax profits of £100.4 million for calendar 1989, against £76.7 million the year before, said it was too early to make a profit forecast for the current year, but the fund-raising news was sweetened by a promise to lift the dividend from last year's 18.5p a share to not less than 21p.

The new cash will slash group gearing to around 26 per cent after allowing for the current preference share buy-back scheme. It was 77 per cent at the end of 1989 and stood at 131 per cent before last year's sale of Crossley Builders Merchants.

Mr Mike Murphy, Warburg Securities analyst, thinks Bowater could be looking for a proprietary products business in the US. "I would expect a deal before the end of the year," he said. Institutional investors would not want the group sitting on the cash for too long.

Warburg is looking for profits of £125 million this year, and earnings per share of 37p.

Bowater shares, marked sharply lower to 497p initially, recovered smartly once the attractiveness of the terms had been digested, to close unchanged at 514p.

Tempus, page 23

## British Steel Lite.



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WE'RE ADDING VALUE AT BRITISH STEEL.



# SmithKline shares rise on £210m sale of cosmetics firms

By STEPHEN LEATHER

THE SmithKline Beecham pharmaceutical group is selling its Margaret Astor and Lancaster cosmetics businesses to J. A. Benckiser, of Germany, for £210 million.

The price, to be paid in cash, is subject to adjustment for a post-completion audit, but at least £176 million will be received when the deal is completed next month. SmithKline Beecham 'A' shares rose 21p to 539p.

The deal is the latest in a series of asset disposals which SB hopes will bring its debt mountain, the result of the merger of America's SmithKline Beecham and Britain's Beecham last July, down to about £1 billion by the year end. The international health-care group started the year with debts of £1.75 billion.

SB has so far raised £701 million from selling assets, of which £629 million is in cash. In December, Benckiser paid £66 million for SB's household products business in the US and Canada.

Last month, SB sold its cosmetics business Yardley/Lentheric, including Yardley cosmetics, Lentheric perfumes and Morny soaps, to Old Bond Street Corporation, of the US, for £110 million.

Wasserstein Perella Management Partners, an affiliate of the US buyout specialist, owns 88.5 per cent of the business. SB received £70 million in

cash for Yardley/Lentheric and £40 million in subordinated loan notes of a British subsidiary of Old Bond Street. The loan notes are redeemable in 1998 and bear fixed interest of 9 per cent a year, payable after three years.

Also last month, SB completed the sale of its Marmite, Ambrosia and Bovril brands to CPC International, the US foods group, for £157 million in cash.

CPC, whose \$5.1 billion sales include Hellman's mayonnaise, Mazola Corn Oil and Knorr Soups, acquired the worldwide rights to the brands, with sales of £89 million last year, plus factories in Devon and at Burton-on-Trent employing about 700.

The group has also sold 32 US drug brands and cosmetic products for £32 million, and has raised \$800 million from an issue of auction-rate preference shares.

Earlier this month Mr Henry Wendt, the chairman, announced first-quarter pre-tax profits down from £235 million to £219 million, reflecting a £51 million rise in interest charges arising from the merger.

On a pro forma basis, pre-tax profits rose 21 per cent, though about a third of the increases in sales and trading profit arose from exchange-rate movements.

The latest businesses being

sold include Lancaster skin-care products, Margaret Astor cosmetics, Monteil skin-care cosmetics, Parera fragrances and a number of designer brands under licence agreements. Trading profits amounted to £24 million last year on sales of £264 million, with net assets of £85 million. The deal is subject to West German regulatory approval.

Factories at Michelstadt, West Germany; in Monaco; at Chartres, France; and in Barcelona, Spain, are included in the sale. The businesses employ 3,800 people.

Dr Peter Hart, chairman of Benckiser, said: "The acquisition of Astor/Lancaster represents another major step in Benckiser's restructuring of its business. Since 1985, the company has acquired eight consumer products businesses in 10 countries for an aggregate consideration of more than £600 million while shedding non-core chemical operations for aggregate proceeds of nearly £110 million."

SB has still to find a buyer for its Montana fragrances unit and its Yardley/Lentheric operation in South Africa. The company had originally hoped to sell its entire cosmetics business for about £600 million, but figures were revised downwards when the operations proved more difficult to sell than had been expected.

## Classroom role for disgraced Milken

From JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL Milken is not wasting his time as he awaits an expected five-year jail term for admitted fraud offences when he is sentenced in New York on October 1.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Milken has been teaching mathematics at a school in the Harlem district of New York.

Mr Milken's spokesman, Mr Ken Lerer, said that the former junk bond king's philanthropy dated from the early 1970s and involved, among other things, the Milken Family Foundation.

However, some of the school's teachers, who declined to be identified, were not impressed. One said: "I think it's morally outrageous. He is a notorious white-collar criminal and shouldn't be treated as a celebrity and allowed to influence kids."

The school was a recipient last year of a \$50,000 grant from the Milken Foundation.

Mr Steve Kaminsky, its principal, said: "I'm not going to be a hypocrite and say it's okay to take Mr Milken's money and not allow the gentleman into the building."

Mr Milken, who once claimed to give US financial markets lessons on the untapped value of companies, spent a day last week giving 30 children, aged 10 and 11, maths lessons.

Last month Mr Milken admitted six charges of securities fraud.

## Thames sounds warning



Sir Ian Trethowan: 'number of improvements to the Broadcasting Bill are needed'

THAMES Television has given a warning that a downturn in advertising revenue could have a "substantial adverse effect" on interim pre-tax profits to end June, Colin Campbell writes.

He said a number of improvements were still needed in the Broadcasting Bill and gave a warning that competition is likely to be fierce.

He said dependence on advertising revenue was expected to fall further and that

in the first four months of 1990, revenue was 1 per cent down on year ago levels.

"Although there are some indications that a gradual improvement may be expected over the rest of 1990, there is little sign of a rapid return to real growth," he said.

Sir Ian said BET and Thorn EMI, with a 56 per cent shareholding, had not yet decided on the timing and method of their proposed share disposals.

meeting that Thames Television would also suffer from new arrangements for Exchequer levy and from the short-term impact of the group's US acquisition.

He said a number of improvements were still needed in the Broadcasting Bill and gave a warning that competition is likely to be fierce.

He said dependence on advertising revenue was expected to fall further and that

## MMC to investigate two more bus deals

By DEREK HARRIS INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TWO more bus companies among the many set up in the wake of deregulation in the industry are to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) after acquisitions that have cut competition.

For one, Stagecoach Holdings, of Perth, it is the second MMC inquiry that it faces after growing quickly through acquisitions throughout Britain. It has become one of the largest bus operators in the country, along with Badgerline and Drawlane, since the privatization break-up of the National Bus Company.

The investigations bring to five the studies of bus companies recommended by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, on the grounds that in a particular area an acquisition has restricted or eliminated competition.

They are among the smallest acquisitions referred to the MMC, but, in each case, Sir Gordon's recommendation has been taken up by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary.

One new reference concerns Stagecoach's acquisition of Farnham, with services in east and west Sussex, and part of Kent. The other involves the takeover by Cheltenham-based Western Travel, another big operator, of G&G Coaches (Leamington), which has bus services in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Both takeovers appear to have largely eliminated competition in a part of the operational areas.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has also noted a tendency since the National Bus break-up, under legislation of 1987, for the various companies not to trespass on each other's territory. What worries the OFT is that fares may rise and that local authorities may find a lack of competitive tenders for contract routes that they subsidize.

Western Travel's acquisition is thought to have given it about two-thirds of the contract business throughout Warwickshire, and to have raised its share of the non-subsidized market from two-thirds to three-quarters.

Stagecoach's acquisition of a Portsmouth bus operation is already being investigated by the MMC.

## Eurobank 'set to open by start of 1991'

THE head of the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said he hopes the agency will be operating by the start of next year.

M Jacques Attali, President Francois Mitterrand's chief economic adviser, said recruitment of staff would start in the summer.

Ministers and officials from 40 countries and two European institutions have signed the bank's charter but the agency will not exist formally until the statutes have been ratified by at least 28 of the national parliaments. This is likely by early next year.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### MMC clears Rank over advertising monopoly

RANK Screen Advertising (RSA), part of the Rank Organisation, has 77 per cent of the cinema advertising services market but the monopoly does not operate against the public interest, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) has found.

The MMC was asked to look at the industry following a complaint of unfair competition made by Pearl & Dean, RSA's competitor in cinema advertising services, with 23 per cent of the market. The MMC found RSA's profitability had been high in 1988 and 1989 but that its ability to maintain that level was a matter of "considerable uncertainty." Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has agreed the MMC findings, which have also been accepted by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, who ordered the investigation.

### New chief for GrandMet arm

GRAND Metropolitan has named Mr Roh Hawthorne as the president and chief executive officer of its Alpo Petfoods subsidiary in the United States. Mr Hawthorne succeeds Mr Frank Krum, who will become a special adviser to the chairman on trade and industry relations for Grand Metropolitan's food companies in the United States.

### Medi-Physics price lowered

AMERSHAM International the medical research group, said it would pay no more than \$45.85 million for Medi-Physics, the radio-pharmaceuticals subsidiary of Hoffman-La Roche, against the previously agreed \$61 million. Amersham will make an initial payment of \$30 million and further performance-related payments of no more than \$15.85 million.

### BHH dividend static

BHH Group, the property company, lifted pre-tax profits from £7.32 million in £7.41 million in 1989. The final dividend is reduced to 2p (2.75p), making an unchanged 4.0p. Earnings per share fell from 13.48p to 3.76p with the reduction mainly due to a dilution in earnings following the issue of shares after the £42 million acquisition of the Slough Estates portfolio in March, 1989. There is an extraordinary credit of £754,000, mainly relating to the gain on the sale of an investment. Interest payments fell from £3.75 million to £3.16 million.

Mr David Fitzgerald, the executive chairman, said adverse conditions have continued into 1990 and, with no foreseeable drop in interest rates in the short-term, no immediate increase can be expected in the group's activities.

### £100m storm claims at Pru

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's largest insurance company, has received claims for £100 million relating to storms in Europe this year, according to Lord Hunt, the outgoing chairman. The estimate, given at the annual meeting, is slightly higher than the £90 million indicated at the time of the results in March. The market took the news calmly and the shares rose 8p to 222p.

### Tinsley-Wace talks ended

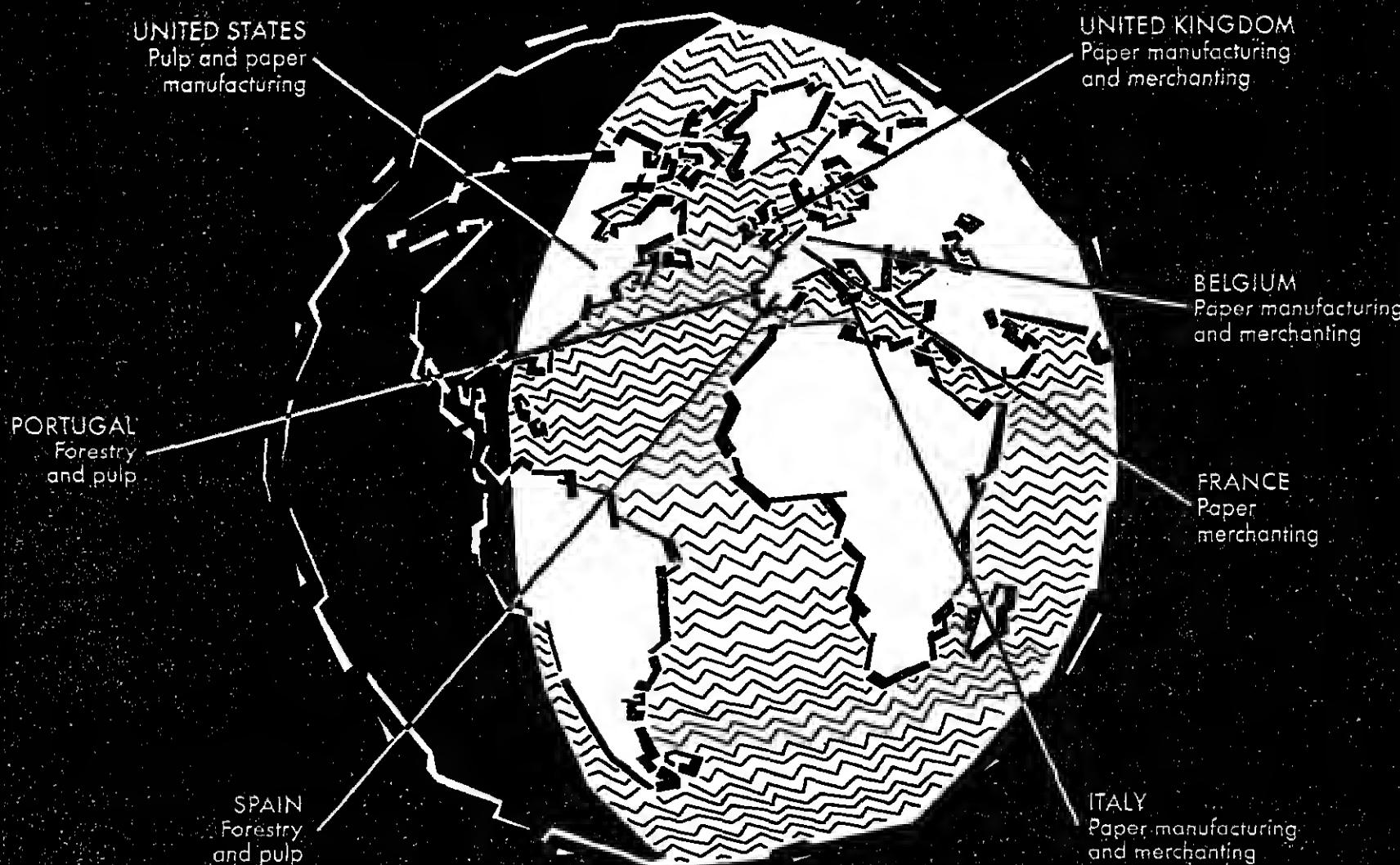
THE shares in Tinsley Robor, the printing and packaging group, lost 7p to 27p after it revealed that the talks it was having with Wace Group, the acquisitive pre-press services and specialist printing company, about a recommended offer by Wace had been terminated. The talks had been going on since late March. Wace shares climbed by 11p to 347p.

### Paribas deal expected

COMPAGNIE Financière de Paribas is expected to announce an accord with its failed bid target Compagnie de Navigation Mixte to cut its stake in Mixte to less than 30 per cent, sources close to the negotiations said. The French bank holds 40 per cent of Mixte after an inconclusive bid last year. The accord should also call for Mixte to reduce its 12 per cent holding in Paribas to less than 10 per cent, the sources said.

At Paribas' annual meeting M Michel Francois-Poncet, the bank's president, said an announcement on the framework of an accord reached between Paribas and Mixte could be made very quickly. The accord follows weeks of talks between the two rivals.

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MAKING PAPER WORK



MMC to investigate two more bus deals

By Derek Harris  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Q More bus companies are being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) than have been in the past.

A More than 100 bus companies are being investigated by the MMC, which is looking at the industry as a whole. The Commission is concerned that the industry is becoming too concentrated and that there is a risk of anti-competitive behaviour.

Q Which companies are being investigated?

A The MMC is looking at a wide range of companies, including British Bus, London Transport, and several regional operators. The Commission is particularly interested in the way that these companies are operating and whether they are using their market power to the detriment of passengers.

Q What are the concerns of the MMC?

A The MMC is concerned that the bus industry is becoming too concentrated and that there is a risk of anti-competitive behaviour. It is also concerned that the industry is not providing enough services and that fares are too high.

Q What is the MMC's role?

A The MMC's role is to investigate anti-competitive behaviour and to recommend remedies where necessary. It is a statutory body and its recommendations are binding on the government.

Q What is the outcome of the investigation?

A The MMC has issued a number of reports and recommendations. It has found that there is a risk of anti-competitive behaviour in the bus industry and has recommended that the government should take steps to ensure that the industry remains competitive.

Without big credits from the west, the Soviet Union will not be able to build a market economy, according to a leading economic adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachov.

Without big credits from the west, according to commercial anecdotes from as far apart as Tokyo and Berlin, the Soviet economy will not be able to stay where it is. The Soviet Union is becoming remarkably slow in paying her bills. Where once it was considered a matter of pride to come up with the dollars as soon as the invoice was submitted, there are now excuses. The cheques are in the post, perhaps, but the postman seems to have lost his way somewhere between Moscow and the world.

The unpaid bills relate not to inessential items, but to the building blocks for the Russian economy. Steel, for instance, is no longer being supplied by Japan because of amounts outstanding.

This is not the Soviet Union being difficult for political reasons, but because it appears to be running short of hard currency. It has three major

sources of hard currency: oil, gold and timber. The west is at the wrong stage of the economic cycle to take vast increases in timber supplies and gold requires subtlety and sleight of hand if increased supplies are not merely to result in lower prices.

That leaves oil, and the indications are that even before taking into account the inevitable complications caused by yesterday's earthquake, the Soviet Union is having difficulty maintaining its oil output, let alone increasing it. The old saying about statistics and lies is more true of the Soviet Union than even of Conservative Central Office, but for what they are worth, the official figures show a slippage in oil output from 12.6 million barrels per day in 1988, to 12.2 million last year and to 11.8 million so far this year. Even according to the figures, oil production is in a decline which is accelerating. The real picture may be worse.

## Gorbachov catalyst for oil price shock

### COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

According to the International Energy Agency, a consumer cartel designed as a counterweight to Opec, Soviet net exports to OECD countries are down 10 per cent, or 200,000 barrels per day, in the first quarter of 1990. Given the Soviet Union's desperate need of hard currency, such cutbacks would not have been made if it were possible to avoid them.

Soviet oil exports to other eastern bloc countries are also sharply lower, and Mehdi Varzi, research director at investment house Kleinwort Benson Securities, may have fallen by as much as 40 per cent. He estimates that net Opec exports to CPE countries, those with centrally planned economies, could be

running at the rate of 1 million barrels per day, quadruple the rate in 1987. The black hole in Soviet oil production, caused by poor maintenance and lack of investment rather than problems with reserves, is being filled by Iran, Iraq and Libya.

The eastern bloc has exercised the easy options for cutting consumption. Substitution of other indigenous fuels has been done where it was straightforward. With Soviet Union oil production pegged or falling in a trend which is not easy to reverse in the short term, and which may need injections of western capital and expertise in the long term, analysts are beginning to ask where the oil is going to come from which will

fuel and lubricate the expanding consumerism as the former centrally planned economies move towards market economies.

The election of Boris Yeltsin to the presidency of Russia will make the west more cautious before committing capital for development, but the scale of the potential increase in demand for oil can be illustrated by the fact that only 5 per cent of Soviet citizens' own cars. If consumerism takes root, that percentage will rise faster than food prices in a Soviet supermarket.

World oil demand, despite fears of global warming, is already rising at an annual rate of about 3 per cent, all of which is being met by Opec. Some Opec countries, admittedly a minority, seem to take little notice of quotas and feel it is better to sell 2 million barrels a day at \$16 than half that at \$25. In the short term, they are right. But at some point,

perhaps now that the Iran/Iraq war is no longer presenting those countries with such massive bills for arms purchases, Opec countries might decide to turn down the taps and try to firm up oil prices.

The North Sea producers would stand on the sidelines to cheer them on. They can take comfort that low oil prices have allowed the impetus to go from development of renewable energy sources, which require massive investment and years of planning to compete.

It is a sobering thought, and a depressing one for oilmen from Dallas to the Gulf, that in real terms the price of oil is now right back where it was before the price quadrupled in the seventies. The price of oil to industry, if not the British motorist, is no longer a problem, and the relative decline in oil costs compared with other overheads leaves room for prices to increase without risking a recession.

The problems of the Soviet Union could be just the trigger for a step change in prices which the world will remember for another two decades.

AN association formed to look after the interests of Britain's 11 million private shareholders is launched today. Most individual holders have bought shares in the privatizations of the past decade and hold only those shares bought directly from the Government. They have been discouraged from buying through the stock market by the high costs of dealing and the complexities of relationships with stockbrokers.

The International Stock Exchange seems to have done little to help the Government's aim of deepening share ownership, which Whitehall says would instil into workers a more responsible attitude to industry.

Therefore, a group of brokers, with interests in private client business, has set up The Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers.

Its intention is to focus the thrust of small private shareholder opinion on to the Government, the ISE, regulators such as the Securities and Investments Board, the Securities Association and the European Commission.

Mr John Cobb, chairman of the new association and of the asset management division of Sheppards, the stockbroker, said: "If we can attract the interest of some of the 11 million private shareholders who just hold privatization stocks into buying shares such as ICI and Glaxo, then we are getting true wider share ownership."

"To do this we need to be able to deal more cheaply and to get costs down. But we will start by consulting our members to achieve an order of priorities."

Mr Cobb estimates that 75 per cent of share bargains by volume in Britain are for private clients, as opposed to City institutions. Expressed by value, this figure is still 25 per cent, a significant enough slice of the market, which needs to be looked after better than it is at present, said Mr Cobb.

The association has an executive of 17 drawn from stockbrokers specializing in private client business, such as National Investment Group

## In search of a genuinely wider share ownership



Lobbying for cheaper costs at SE: John Cobb

and Allied Provincial Securities, and regional stockbrokers such as Henry Cooke Lumsden, Wise Speke and Greig Middleton.

Other members of the association include Mr Michael Baker, until recently director of markets at the ISE. He

has been appointed chief executive of the new organization. The association will act as an independent body, outside the formal structure of the ISE, but will nevertheless gain co-operation from the Stock Exchange. The association's executives are to be invited on

to both the key markets and settlements committees of the ISE.

Mr Cobb said: "We believe that the International Stock Exchange faces conflicts of interest as the provider of services to a range of stock market users with highly diverse interests. There is now a need for a single body which is able to speak authoritatively for practitioners and clients. The last decade has seen a fourfold increase in the number of private shareholders and their needs must be accommodated by regulators and legislators."

"Within the securities industry, other bodies already fulfil a similar role for institutional investors and international securities houses."

Invitations for support have been sent to all ISE member firms transacting private client business. A series of regional briefings to explain the association's role will also be held.

Dealing costs remain the main barrier to private investors. While the association will press for lower costs, it says Taurus, the paperless settlement system, will be of benefit.

Issues which the association expects members to raise include European Community legislation, British financial services regulation, the costs of Taurus. It also expects calls for improving systems for moving cash around the country so that settling bargains can keep up with the new three-day account to be introduced with Taurus, develop cheaper dealing and better price quotations, and present the Government with a united view on private shareholder matters.

It will also mount education campaigns to encourage private investors, lobby the Government on tax matters and consider the need for a credit reference system. The association sees scope for reduced costs by ensuring a close link between Taurus and the introduction of the rolling three-day account. It believes that improving systems for moving cash around the country is vital.

George Sivell

## TEMPUS Surprises support Warburg

WARBURG really showed its paces last year. Ex the first-half Gateway deal, the more normal second half was even better. Grey Monday and its fall-in-volumes aftermath was outweighed by the continuing stream of episodes, such as the EuroDisney issue and water privatization, which used the combined forces of advice, securities and investment banking that the group has successfully mobilized.

The result was well above the internal budget. The profit warning given by Sir David Scholey, the chairman, should be seen as a reflection of this year's budget. The outcome will depend on how many such potentially profitable episodes, like electricity and B&C, come up this year.

The 20 per cent rise in dividend is a better indicator of underlying growth. At 42p, the shares yield a respectable 4.7 per cent and sell at only 8.5 times fully-diluted earnings per share of 49.9p, reflecting the high profit base. Blowing off the unexpected froth, the p/e ratio might be 10.5, modest for quality management.

Taking the 75 per cent interest in Mercury Asset Management (which contributed £44 million pre-tax) at market value, asset value net of inner reserves is 454p. If Warburg's international banking and securities business is not worth that long term, the sector can have little future.

### Siebe

SIEBE's shares rose 14p to 489p on the announcement of its profits for the year to March, which, at £181 million before tax, were about £6 million better than analysts had expected. However, they remain about 100p below their 1989 peak because of worries about the company's exposure to a downturn in the US domestic appliance and automotive industries.

So far, these concerns have proved unwarranted and the 19 per cent increase in profits last year was not affected by exceptional factors. Currency movements flattened the results to the tune of £7 million, but this was exactly offset by

lower property disposal profits and the adverse effect of SSAP 24, the new accounting standard on pensions.

Earnings per share rose by a slower 11 per cent to 55p because of a four-point rise in the tax charge to 39 per cent, but dividends in total are being increased by almost a third to 15p to reduce the excessive cover.

Analysts now anticipate profits of £200 million and earnings of 60p in the current year, leaving the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 8. That is a snip for an engineer with virtually no defence exposure, even if maintaining the 20 per cent annual earnings growth of the past five years may need another big acquisition.

### Dunhill

AS money spinners go, Dunhill Holdings remains in a class of its own. The rich, the famous and the Japanese continue to swing through Dunhill's doors. The shop tills have turned out pre-tax profits of £60.6 million (£45.5 mil-

lion) for the year to end-March, and the net cash pile is £117.7 million (£94.7 million).

With shareholders' funds at £137 million and cash equivalent to 80p a share of net tangible assets, Dunhill is still searching for the next generation of profits growth.

The final dividend is 3.5p (2.5p), making 5.5p (3.75p), and the cover, which was 5.2 times four years ago, is down to 4.1. That could still be considered too conservative, but unless Rothmans, with a 55 per cent share, starts to make a noise, little is likely to change.

Since profitable brand name companies do not come cheaply, Dunhill could find itself searching for fixed assets - and what better than a gold club? - in order not to be seen to be a quasi banking organization.

Pre-tax profits are set to strike the £77 million level this year, to put the shares at 399p on a prospective p/e of 14. A Dunhill lighter retailing for between £120 and £175 is still cheaper than 100 shares, but is not as much fun.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Jones plays a numbers game

AS ONE might expect, analysts who specialize in the leisure sector know how to enjoy themselves more than most. And their usual high spirits were much in evidence when, en masse, they visited Rank Organisation's flagship leisure centre in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, on Tuesday. Included among their number was Bruce Jones, together with his team-mate Roy Owens is ranked third in the leisure sector - after James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd - in Eate's league table. And at about 5.30pm Jones received the "call" that every touring analyst is now supposed to dread. He, along with 120 others at Kitcat & Aitken, had lost his job. Quickly recalling, however, that he had signed a three-year contract, he appeared far from forlorn. And, as might be expected from one who is at the top of his tree, he was then observed to be swapping home telephone numbers with Mark Loveland, from Warburg Securities - Loveland has been rebuilding Warburg's leisure team, after all, with the recruitment of Mark Bilby - and Peter Joseph, from Smith New Court. Owens, meanwhile, was on holiday.

### Truth shines

GEORGE Mallinckrodt, executive chairman of Schroder, the merchant bank, has one of

the most extravagant offices in the Square Mile. So says the Society of London Financial Analysts, after asking its members - all banking or insurance analysts or fund managers - to complete a half-serious questionnaire. Mallinckrodt's nomination, which has surprised Schroder insiders, was accompanied by the remark: "Isn't one Canaletto enough?" One internal source said: "I would have thought it was pretty sparse as merchant banks go - there are a few paintings on the walls but only old family ones." The TSB was nominated as the company which most needed to be taken over, and also as the company which "needs to try harder." Commercial Union is clearly the darling of the financials sector as it was voted the company which "least deserves to be taken over." Tom Wrigley, of First National Finance, was the most colourful corporate individual, while Willie

D'Abbas, who runs King & Shaxson, the discount house, was declared "the most unco-operative person." "He is completely uncommunicative," says Derek Sheffer, MIM fund manager and chairman of the society. And finally, since the favourite motto suggestion for the society, a banalization of a Latin phrase, was anonymous - "It is right and decorous to die for one's client" - the prize for the best motto went to Ian Shelley of WJ Carr, the only offering in Greek. Translated, he wrote: "Truth shines through numbers."

ON THE entrance of the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York, there is a small notice which reads: "Gates close at 4.30pm."

Thames goes pink CITY slickers, forewarned in The Times City Diary, are indeed having to shake their Financial Times over their waste paper baskets before settling down to read. For, in two tranches - yesterday and today - and at a cost approaching £20,000, Thames Television has had 100,000 copies of its 56-page annual report inserted into the newspaper, for distribution in London and the South-east. "This is the first full annual report we've done," admits Tany Blin-Stoyie, FT deputy ad director. "We started doing inserts in January and already we're up to two or three a week, but we will limit them to a maximum of one a day." Thames, for its part, argues that since it is effectively up

for sale - Baring Brothers is trying to sell the 56 per cent stake owned by BET and Thann EMI - it needs to reach opinion formers.

OVERHEARD on a City dealing floor: Question: "What would you call two Russians on a picket-line?" Answer: "Perestroika."

### Barrett bows out

ONE OF the last City gents to sport the once traditional bowler hat and velvet collar coat, will soon be storing both in his wardrobe, after 50 years in the Square Mile. For Rex Barrett, aged 65, is retiring as the senior partner of accountants Comins & Co. "I feel about 16 years old really," says Barrett, who has taken to keeping staff at Comins on their toes by roaming the corridors with a video on his shoulder. He is, he insists, simply making sentimental movies. Barrett, who first doffed a bowler almost 40 years ago - after a memorable visit in the 1950s to James Lock & Co of St James - also reveals that he did so much to the horror of his wife, who refused to be seen in the street with him. The bowler was, he was informed, more properly known as the Coke hat, and then the salesman added: "We won't sell you a bowler hat, sir, we will build you one." He would, he says, love to see "Cokes" come back into fashion, but with a price-tag of £95 each at Lock's these days it is perhaps unlikely.

Carol Leonard

## BLUE ARROW COMPENSATION OFFER

NatWest Investment Bank Limited (NWIB) has agreed to extend its Blue Arrow compensation offer. The original offer, announced in February 1990, made to those who purchased Blue Arrow shares through the market in the period 29 September 1987 to 26 October 1987, has now been extended to include purchases in the period 27 October 1987 to 17 December 1987 (both dates inclusive).

NWIB will therefore now consider claims from those who purchased Blue Arrow PLC Sp ordinary shares through the market between 29 September 1987 and 17 December 1987 (both dates inclusive). This offer does not extend to those institutions who took shares in the placing exercise following the Rights Issue on 29 September 1987. NWIB will be contacting those who took shares in this exercise from its subsidiaries County NatWest Limited and County NatWest Securities Limited.

The amount of compensation payable to those who purchased Blue Arrow shares between 29 September 1987 and 26 October 1987 (both dates inclusive) will continue to be up to a maximum of 30p per share depending on the date of purchase of the shares. Those who bought in the extended offer period, 27 October 1987 to 17 December 1987 (both dates inclusive), will receive a maximum of 5p per share. Compound interest will be calculated at the average NatWest base rate from October 1987 and will be paid after deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Any settlement will be made at NWIB's discretion and without admission of liability.

Full details of the extended offer and compensation payable are set out in the Terms and Conditions of the offer. The closing date for submission of all claims has been extended to 22 June 1990.

If you consider you may have a claim, please apply for the Terms and Conditions and a Claim Form by filling in the coupon below, or write to:

Claims Administration Service,  
NatWest Investment Bank Limited,  
Drapers Gardens,  
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2ES.

If you have any other queries relating to this offer please telephone the helpline which is in operation between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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For names \_\_\_\_\_

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## OECD annual ministerial meeting opens in Paris

## Call to cut world farming subsidies

From Neil Bennett in Paris

AN URGENT call for a reduction in world agricultural subsidies has come from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the start of its annual ministerial meeting in Paris.

An OECD report, *Agricultural Policies Markets and Trade*, greeted ministers from the 24 countries as they arrived for the two-day conference.

Britain's delegation is headed by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, and Mr Francis Maude, the Foreign Minister.

The report shows that farming subsidies in the OECD countries totalled \$245 billion last year. This is 13 per cent lower than the \$282 billion paid in 1988.

The amount of subsidy as a proportion of total production also fell, from 45 per cent to 39 per cent.

However, the report claimed the fall was due to a number of factors, such as commodity price rises and the strength of the dollar, rather than any concerted national effort.

Subsidies in 1988 were also boosted by US drought relief



Maude speaking for UK

to farmers in the Mid-West. The debate on world agricultural trade is expected to dominate the OECD meeting.

Ministers hope to put pressure on the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks to reach an agreement by the end of the year.

The talks are still dogged by divisions between the US and the EC countries on the level of subsidy that should be available to farmers.

The OECD report concludes: "Whatever path is taken, the reform must lead to a reduction in overall assistance... to achieve the long-term objective of market

orientation to benefit the economy as a whole."

An EC spokesman, however, challenged the report's suggestion that it was not taking effective action to reduce subsidies.

"We disagree with this," he said. "Since 1986 we have applied quotas, and if world prices have risen, it is because we have reduced production."

He said that the EC's new subsidy measure, the Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS), showed the Community had reduced subsidies by 10 per cent in vegetable produce and 15 per cent in meat and dairy produce since 1988. The EC now hopes to persuade the US to use the AMS as a basis for a GATT agreement and has reaffirmed its commitment to a "substantial, progressive reduction of support."

The spokesman said the EC was only willing to negotiate on all subsidies together, unlike the US which has been pressing for separate debates on internal support, export subsidies and protectionism.

The EC is not prepared for further negotiations at the OECD meeting but hopes the communiqué might open the way to discussions at the Houston summit in July.

## British tax system 'still needs reform'

BRITAIN continues to suffer from a distorted tax system and a rigid labour market, according to a report from the OECD.

The report, an update on economic reform within the OECD's 24 member countries, said there was "unfinished business" in Britain's tax reform. It called for changes to employers' contributions to National Insurance and stiffer levies on benefits in kind, particularly company cars.

The OECD also attacked tax relief on mortgages, while it called for an end to export subsidies and government preference for national products.

Apart from tax, the organization sees the recent education reforms as crucial but says further measures may be needed.

Overall, the OECD said that all its members had made some progress in free-market reforms but that reforms had been limited in trade and agriculture.

"The multilateral trading system continued to be under strain," the report said. The organization concluded that its member needed to be more willing to provide necessary economic data.

## City rail link inaugurated



Out-Victorianing the Victorians: Stuart Lipton (left) and Godfrey Bradman

THE first new railway station in the City of London to be opened for more than 100 years, got half way there when St Paul's Thameslink station was inaugurated (Matthew Bond writes).

Its official opening will have to wait another eight months, until the concrete shell within which the ceremony took place, has been fully fired out. But trains are already using the station and the tunnel, which replaced the Halborn in Blackfriars viaduct.

The station has come into operation 17 days after the Thameslink service, the only through passenger rail route across London, was suspended.

Mr Chris Green, director of British Rail's Network South East, described the speed at which the new tracks had been laid as "out-Victorianing the Victorians."

Bearing the £50 million cost of the station is Rosehaugh-Stanhope Developments, the joint venture between the

City's two leading quoted developers Rosehaugh, chaired by Mr Godfrey Bradman, and Stanhope Properties, chaired by Mr Stuart Lipton.

The cost will be deducted from the 600,000 sq ft Ludgate office development that will now begin above the new tunnel which, R-SD hopes, will repeat the success it found at Broadgate, its Liverpool Street development.

Ludgate is scheduled to be the last scheme tackled by the joint venture company.

## Eurocopy profits surge 135% to £5.49m

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRE-TAX profits at Eurocopy, the acquisitive photocopier and facsimile distributor, surged by 135 per cent to £5.49 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions and organic growth, leapt from £8.03 million to £24 million.

The company saw a 198 per cent increase in income from metered charges to £10.1 million.

Eps jump from 3.98p to 7.39p, and the interim dividend is improved to 1.1p, against 0.9p last time.

Mr Cyril Gay, chairman and managing director, said that while there are clear indications the UK economy is slowing "trading is continuing at the record levels experienced in the quarter-end to March."

Mr Gay said Equipu, which was acquired from Sketchley in March 1989, has improved its profit contribution after reorganization and added about £2.3 million to the group's operating profits.

The company is sitting on £13 million cash, and it is "looking at possible takeover opportunities within our range." Interest receipts climbed from £268,000 to £686,000. The shares advanced by 9p to 228p.

## HK eases entry rules to tackle labour shortage

From Lulu Yu in Hong Kong

AN ACUTE labour shortage has forced Hong Kong to relax immigration rules to admit more foreign workers.

The Executive Council, Hong Kong's cabinet, approved plans to import up to 10,000 workers this year to help to ease a chronic shortage that has caused many companies to switch production to China.

"All have argued that since inflation is caused mainly by wage increases as a result of an excess of demand over supply in the labour market, we must import labour," Sir David Ford, Chief Secretary, said.

He said, however, that this would not open the floodgates to an influx of foreigners. "We are not contemplating large-scale, indiscriminate importation of untrained, inexperienced labour," he said.

Hong Kong has a population of fewer than 6 million, but there are vacancies of up to 200,000 in its workforce of about 3 million. Unemployment is always below 2 per cent. Worst-hit by the lack of skilled and unskilled labour are the hotel and service sectors, textiles, construction and manufacturing.

Last year, the government began tackling the problem by introducing a quota of 3,000 overseas workers to be imported. However, the rules were so stringent and inadequate that only 1,600 — mainly technicians and craftsmen — were admitted. Many others either did not qualify or became entangled in immigration red tape.

Mr Martin Barrow, a legislator who chairs a coalition of trade and commercial organizations, said: "It was a very modest scheme whose

arrangements were complicated and bureaucratic."

Hong Kong already has about 60,000 Filipina maids working as contract domestic helpers. They form the largest foreign contingent. The colony employs another two million workers across the Chinese border in joint-venture factories that produce the bulk of Hong Kong's re-exports.

The shortage of workers has led to a pay bonanza, with earnings in all industries rising sharply over the past two years. Latest figures show that monthly wages in manufacturing rose 18 per cent by March, from a year ago, and that overall wages rose by between 7 per cent and 23 per cent in that period.

In services, average earnings soared 19 per cent. Hotels were particularly hard hit by rising costs.

Mr Michael Li, executive director of the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners, said: "The hotel industry urgently needs another 9,000 workers this year. The demand will become more critical in the next two years."

Hong Kong's hotel and travel industry is already feeling the pinch of a tourism downturn "made critical by labour shortage and a surplus of rooms. The downturn began last year, when the number of visitors fell for the first time in 18 years after political turmoil in China. Hotel occupancy slid to 76 per cent for the first quarter, from 83 per cent in first-quarter 1989.

Tourism receipts — the colony's third-biggest earner of foreign exchange — are forecast to rise only negligibly from the HK\$36 billion (£2.7 billion) of 1989.

## Heat hits H Young results

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A COMBINATION of the introduction of charges for sight tests, the hot summer's effects on sales of grass cutting equipment and reduced consumer spending took their toll on the profits of H Young Holdings, the distribution of financial services group.

Pre-tax profits plunged to £251,000 in the six months to end-March, from £1.61 million last time. Turnover fell from £17.2 million to £13.8 million, with the optical division contributing about £5.5 million. Earnings per share slumped from 7.0p to 1.1p. The interim dividend is, however, maintained at 2p.

Mr John Wilson, chairman, said that trading in the interim period's first three months had remained depressed, but all areas of the business had improved both sales and profitability since the start of 1990, with sales in the period's second three months rising 28 per cent on the first three. Gross margins had been at least maintained and costs reduced.

Young expects to declare a 4p final dividend, for an unchanged full-year total of 6p.

An extraordinary profit of £5.38 million relates to the sale of the Readygas business. The shares held at 65p, after 66p.

## Capita to acquire JE Greatorrex

By OUR CITY STAFF

CAPITA Group, the Unlisted Securities Market public sector management consultant, is acquiring JE Greatorrex (JEG), a professional practice of consulting engineers specializing in building engineering services, for a maximum of £9 million, depending on profit levels.

On completion, Capita will make an initial payment of £5 million, which will be satisfied by the issue of 3.16 million new ordinary shares. Of these, 595,000 will be retained and the remaining 2.56 million will be placed on behalf of the vendors to raise £4 million in cash. The new shares to be placed will be offered to shareholders on the basis of one offer share for every 3.42 ordinary shares held, at 156p per share.

JEG reported pre-tax profits of £1.05 million in the year to end-December, representing an historic exit price earnings ratio of 7.35 times on the initial payment.

Capita said it is trading significantly ahead of last year's levels. The acquisition has to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting on June 15. Capita shares fell by 2p to 167p.

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National Power Energy Direct is delighted to be co-sponsor of Power Plus 90 and looks forward to seeing you there.

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For details of the seminars or for more information about Combined Heat and Power

write to David Green, Power Plus 90, Combined Heat and Power Association, Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1.

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and that currency de-  
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The news that Citicorp  
and other companies in  
the US are withdrawing  
from the country is  
another factor.

There were the con-  
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• **Singapore** - The  
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• **London** - The  
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**The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

**SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**

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## LONDON FINANCIAL FUT

## COMMODITIES

## COMMODITIES



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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Baroness Units	Transport	
2	Greene King	Breweries	
3	Compass Gp	Leisure	
4	Newman Tools	Building/Roads	
5	WPP	Print/Pub/Adv	
6	Brake Bros	Food	
7	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Pet	
8	Williams Hides (as)	Industrial S-Z	
9	Macrolim Repro	Electronics	
10	Church	Draperies/Stores	
11	Speybank	Property	
12	Traylor H (as)	Industrial S-Z	
13	Unilever (as)	Industrial S-Z	
14	JS Pathology	Industrial S-Z	
15	BTCL (as)	Industrial A-D	
16	Vibromat	Building/Roads	
17	Hilldown (as)	Food	
18	Savoy Hotels 'A'	Hotels/Caterers	
19	South West	Water	
20	Island Frozen	Food	
21	Br Land (as)	Property	
22	Br Aerospace (as)	Motors/Aircraft	
23	Daglan	Property	
24	Carlson (H)	Transport	
25	Kelley Ind	Industrial S-Z	
26	Manpower	Industrial S-Z	
27	McKichie	Industrial S-Z	
28	Tanner (as)	Building/Roads	
29	Marion Thompson	Breweries	
30	Transport Dev	Transport	
31	Chp & Conley	Property	
32	BAA (as)	Transport	
33	Hunting	Industrial S-Z	
34	Land Soc (as)	Property	
35	Wimpey G (as)	Building/Roads	
36	Lea	Motors/Aircraft	
37	Boston	Property	
38	Third Mile	Industrial S-Z	
39	Lough	Chemicals/Pet	
40	Greyson	Property	
41	Marling	Industrial S-Z	
42	Diamonds Gp (as)	Draperies/Stores	
43	Gr Portland	Property	
44	Central TV	Leisure	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £4000 Portfolio Platinum prize was shared yesterday by two winners, Miss Elizabeth Pate, of Christchurch, Dorset, and Mr Peter Cornish, of Boroughbridge, north Yorkshire, each receive £2000.

## BRITISH FUNDS

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## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## UNDATED

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## INDEX-LINKED

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1990 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Strong advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 29. Dealings end June 8. Contango day June 11. Settlement day June 18.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## BREWERIES

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## BUILDING, ROADS

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## FINANCE, LAND

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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## DRAPERY, STORES

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## HOTELS, CATERERS

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## ELECTRICALS

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## E-K

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## LEISURE

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## MINING

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## L-R

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

## S-Z

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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## TEXTILES

1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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1990 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	Gross	Net

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Tracing the link in the Aids family tree

Researchers claim to have found the clearest clue yet to the origin of HIV. Thomson Prentice looks at the value of their discovery of a virus in chimpanzees

JOHN LAWSON

The latest and most intriguing clues to the origins of the Aids virus have been found circulating in the blood of two chimpanzees from an African rainforest. Scientists believe the evidence could be an important chapter in the history of an epidemic that has infected up to 10 million people world-wide and hope it will help in the development of a vaccine against the disease.

Researchers in Gabon, in equatorial West Africa, and at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, say that the virus they have isolated from the chimpanzees is more closely related to HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, than any other organism found previously in African monkeys.

If they are correct, studies on the animals could open up new approaches in vaccine experiments.

Describing the work, Dr Simon Wain-Hobson, a British virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, said in last week's issue of *Nature*: "Inevitably, the similarity elicits speculation as to their evolutionary relationship and the origins of the current Aids epidemic."

The findings were described in the journal by Dr Ronald Desrosiers, an American Aids expert, as "the most significant clues to date" about where HIV came from. Other specialists are more cautious, but do not doubt the potential value of the discovery.

Three weeks from now in San Francisco, at the world's biggest conference on Aids, to be attended by more than 10,000 delegates, leading scientists will discuss the evolution of the virus.

Almost since the first days of the epidemic, the question of its origins has intrigued the public at large. Bizarre theories have been put forward, such as that the causative virus may have come from outer space, or have been the by-product, accidental or deliberate, of laboratory experiments on biological warfare agents.

The mainstream consensus, however, is that HIV is descended from a common ancestor virus, almost certainly carried by one of a host of African primates.

When HIV was first discovered in 1983, its background was a mystery. Then, in 1985, a second strain, now known as HIV-2, was found in West Africa. In the same year, researchers identified a virus closely resembling HIV-2 in African macaques and called it simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV.

Since then, a group of related viruses have been detected in both wild and captive monkeys. They have emerged in African green monkeys in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Kenya; in mandrills in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, and in sooty mangabeys in Liberia and other parts of western Africa. The tests have been confirmed in animals exported to the United States, Europe and Japan.

Most of the viruses have

been closer to HIV-2 than HIV-1, and have had in common the puzzling fact that they do not cause Aids-like disease in the carrier animals, but do produce a similar illness when injected into other monkey species, such as Asian macaques.

The organisms are all part of a family called lentiviruses which, before the advent of Aids, were known to provoke slow-moving immunodeficiency disease in sheep, horses, goats, cattle and cats. As with Aids, infection could take years to progress to clinical symptoms - invariably the outcome was fatal.

The chimpanzee virus is baffling. The researchers involved insist that the animals were never used in medical experiments, never inoculated with human blood products, never handled by people who might be carrying HIV, and that they were caught in an area of Gabon with a low rate of HIV infection.

Dr Wain-Hobson says the virus was found in only two out of 83 chimps tested in Gabon. Of more than 250 caught in West Africa over the past 20 years, none has been found to be carrying the same infection.

What is the link that connects the chimpanzees, a wide

tion which had less resistance to it.

That transmission probably happened through contaminated blood transfusions, unsterilized medical equipment, or sexual intercourse. Dr Desrosiers, an Aids investigator at the New England Regional Primate Research Centre at Harvard Medical School, says: "Some features of modern society, for example the re-use of syringes and hypodermic needles, changes in migration patterns with extensive world-wide travel, and sexually promiscuous activities, could have greatly facilitated its spread in recent history."

Dr Desrosiers says that if HIV entered the human population by transmission of a virus from another species relatively recently, "increasing prevalence and high mortality would then be consequences of infection of the new host."

American researchers Dr Murray Gardner and Paul Luciw, of the University of California at Davis, say of the evolutionary tree: "Regardless of how long ago these viruses entered humans, it seems clear that the Aids epidemic represents, since about 1976, an explosive escape of HIV-1 from an isolated human population."

Despite the criticisms of doctors who say it distracts from the real issue of combating the spread of Aids, the question of origins is neither academic nor trivial.

Professor Robin Weiss, one of Britain's leading virologists and Aids researchers, says: "Studying the evolution of these viruses is scientifically very important."

"We could be criticized with justification if we were only looking backwards. But we are trying to understand how situations arose, and looking forward to see how we can prevent them happening again."

In a striking observation, he says: "I don't think this sort of work needs to be defended in a month in which we have just seen evidence of the infectious agent that causes 'mad cow disease' apparently jumping species and turning up in cats."

Professor Weiss, head of the Chester Beatty Laboratories at the Institute of Cancer Research in Chelsea, south-west London, is mildly sceptical of the chimpanzee virus evidence, although he respects the scientists who produced it.

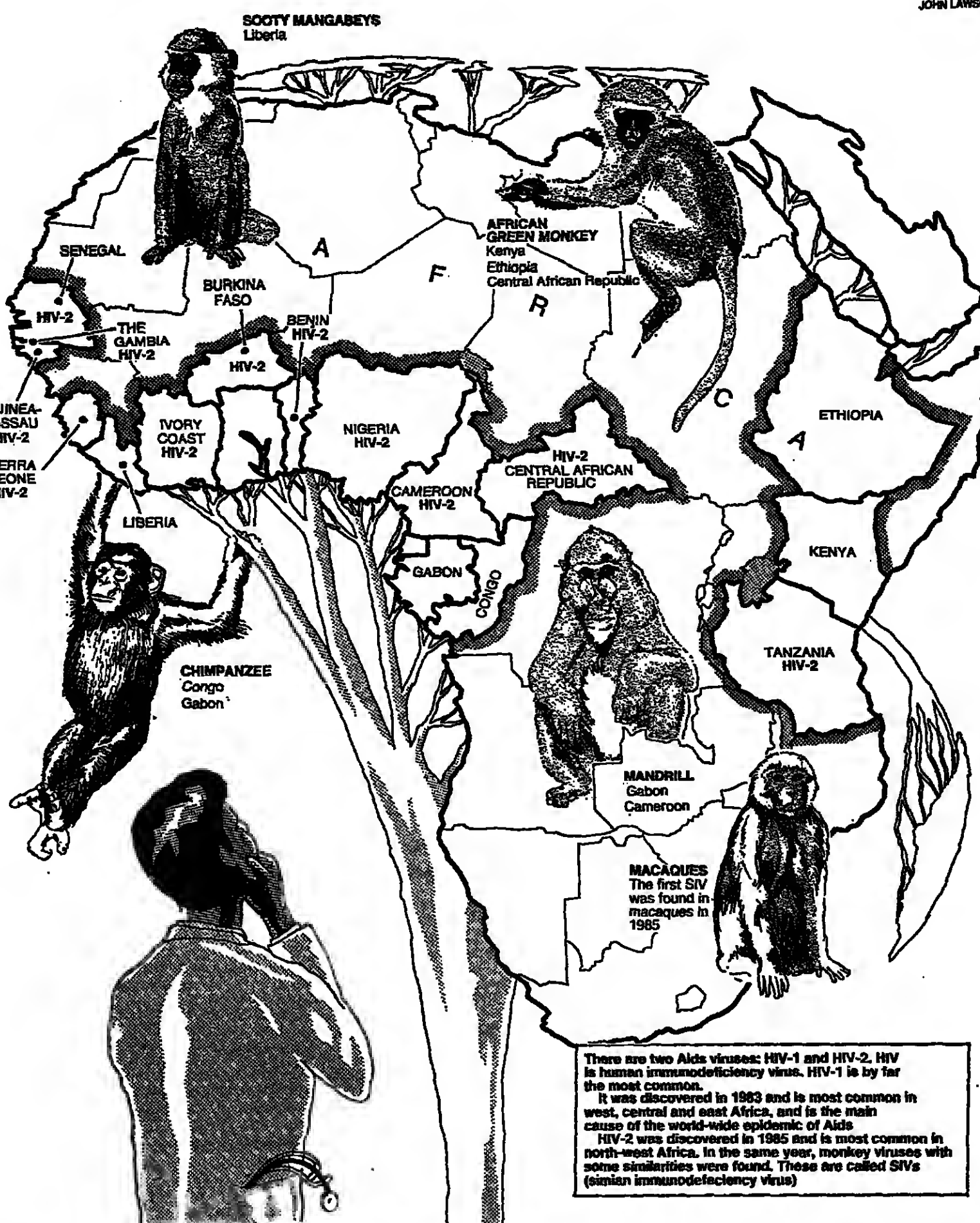
"It may be that we have found a natural progenitor to HIV. But we don't know exactly what happened to these animals on the way to captivity and the crucial question is whether they became infected naturally or not. It is still possible that they acquired the virus from humans."

Dr Myra McClure, a research scientist who works with Professor Weiss, has carried out detailed studies of immunodeficiency viruses in monkeys. She says: "It is far too simplistic for the general public to imagine that Aids began by humans catching a

viral infection from chimpanzees. The evolution of these viruses is much more complicated than that."

"However, if the chimpanzee virus is the result of a natural infection in the animals, it is very significant, and this sort of work is very valuable."

She and other virologists believe that more branches of the HIV tree will be drawn in the next few years. "I think we will eventually find a common animal ancestor for HIV. Many human diseases have their origins in animals. If we can find an animal that has an Aids-like disease, caused by a virus similar to HIV, it can be used in experiments that will help research into drugs and vaccines. That has to be one of the most important goals in the whole field of Aids."



There are two Aids viruses: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV is human immunodeficiency virus. HIV-1 is by far the most common. It was discovered in 1983 and is most common in west, central and east Africa, and is the main cause of the world-wide epidemic of Aids. HIV-2 was discovered in 1985 and is most common in north-west Africa. In the same year, monkey viruses with some similarities were found. These are called SIVs (simian immunodeficiency virus).

**'The tree of evolution could be 100 years old, and the progenitor of the virus now extinct'**

range of monkeys, and man? Although it seems likely that an ancestor virus among the animals was transmitted to humans decades if not centuries ago, just how that transmission occurred remains guesswork.

One plausible theory is that people were infected through being bitten or scratched by monkeys carrying the virus, or through eating them or coming into contact with their blood.

According to Professor Luc Montagnier, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, who discovered HIV-1, the evolutionary tree could be at least 100 years old, and the progenitor species of monkey could now be extinct.

He and some other experts suspect that the infection lay dormant, or at least unrecognized, for many years in humans in western and central Africa.

The emergence of what is now called Aids may, according to this theory, have been due to the well-documented mass migration of Africans in the last few decades from remote areas of the continent into the big cities. Among the migrants would have been infected but symptomless HIV carriers, who transmitted the virus to an urban popula-

## Hi-tech embargo to ease

THE most important meeting ever of Cocom, the informal and secretive committee which regulates the export of advanced technology to what remains of the Eastern bloc, will be held next week.

Delegates from its 17 member countries - Japan and Australia plus all the Nato countries except Iceland - will agree that much western technology, previously prohibited to the East for strategic reasons, may now be exported.

What is about to happen - and what is not - will determine conditions for technology transfer to eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and throughout the West.

Despite American domination of Cocom, other members have resisted a decade of US demands for stricter controls. Rather than challenge America head on, they chose to interpret Cocom guidelines generously, which led to accusations from American firms that foreign firms cheated. But the unilateral controls of America tend to give US firms an advantage.

Allied countries' intransigence led America to apply its own export control laws overseas. Since 1988, it has even assumed responsibility for enforcing the export control laws of other countries where it deems these are being flouted.

Throughout 1989, America insisted that the turmoil in the East made the world less stable and reinforced the need for strong export controls.

**Changes in the Eastern bloc are forcing a reconsideration of Cocom export policy**

Pressure for change from the allies, for whom trade with the East is important, threatened to burst the bounds of good relations.

The White House responded in January with a security review by the joint chiefs of staff. To no one's surprise, the US Government found itself able to accede to a complete overhaul of the Cocom system.

NEXT week in Paris the allies will be offered a 35 per cent reduction in Cocom's industry list of dual-use technology. Just 65 of the present 118 items will remain, forming a "core list" of nine technology categories suggested.

Working parties have been frantically sorting out the details, discussing machine tools at the beginning of May, then computers, and telecommunications equipment last week.

The allies will protest that these concessions do not go far enough, but they are likely to be accepted. In return, the US will demand concessions - that remaining items are strictly controlled and that those countries of eastern Europe which move most swiftly towards democracy receive preferential treatment.

Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia have apparently already agreed that their

enterprises submit to inspection and introduce compliance systems to safeguard western technology from the Soviet Union.

Critics argue that preferential treatment for favoured countries threatens to revive the American use of export controls for foreign policy and even economic warfare. The reforming governments of eastern Europe are being offered no more than the level of technology available to post-Tiananmen China.

The extension to eastern Europe of the very compliance systems that currently plague western business hardly seems to foreshadow the dismantling of these systems in the west.

More lenient American export controls will inevitably accompany reform of Cocom, but withdrawal of the US claims to extraterritorial jurisdiction need not.

American authorities have now abandoned attempts to track individual items of technology and have delegated to manufacturers, both US and foreign, responsibility for controlling their own technology. These days, they simply check on firms' compliance systems.

Firms guard their technology religiously, sometimes even from their own employees. Usually they never comply, terrified of the penalties

America may exact for non-compliance. These penalties range from denial of US supply and the exaction of fines, to inclusion on the Table of Denials Orders, the official blacklist.

Much worse, and dreaded by all western firms, is an unofficial and semi-confidential "greylist". Tens of thousands of firms are now "greylisted" as suspect, usually without their knowledge and often with disastrous consequences for business.

REFORM of Cocom does nothing to dismantle this system of international compliance with US export controls. Indeed, the very domestic lobby in America pressing for Cocom reform also demands that controls must increase national security by boosting American competitiveness in high technology. The National Academy of Sciences, by Congressional mandate, is currently investigating how this may best be done.

The commercial advantage to America of an international compliance system obligating customer to producer and producer to supplier, and monitoring the technological capacity of foreign competitors, is considerable.

STUART McDONALD

● The author is a visiting Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit of the University of Sussex. His book, *Technology and the Tyranny of Export Controls*, will be published in July by Macmillan.

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Creativity or innovation?

Dr John Franz discovered environmentally friendly herbicide 20 years ago. He plots the path research must take to protect our future

During the next 10 years, environmentalists will become more insistent on the theme "modern technology owes ecology an apology". Any apology will probably come with a high price tag.

The successful companies will be those that learn how to make an apology unnecessary by the development of environmentally friendly products. This will require rethinking about how we can carry out the research and discovery process in a more efficient manner.

Research is defined by different people in various ways. One version is that research is going up blind alleys to see if they are really blind. Werner von Braun defined it as: "Basic research is when I'm doing what I don't know what I'm doing."

Research is simply the search for new knowledge. But the process is complex and usually unclear even in the minds of those doing the work. Scientists tend to be individualists and their work is often based more on intuition and personal judgement than on logic or fixed procedures.

In scientific research, one of the most common mistakes is to believe all that one reads and not to distinguish between the results of experiments and the author's interpretation of those results.

While an open mind is an important element in the research process, it is not the only element.

One bears a lot today about creativity and innovation. Although the terms are often used synonymously, these factors are actually quite different.

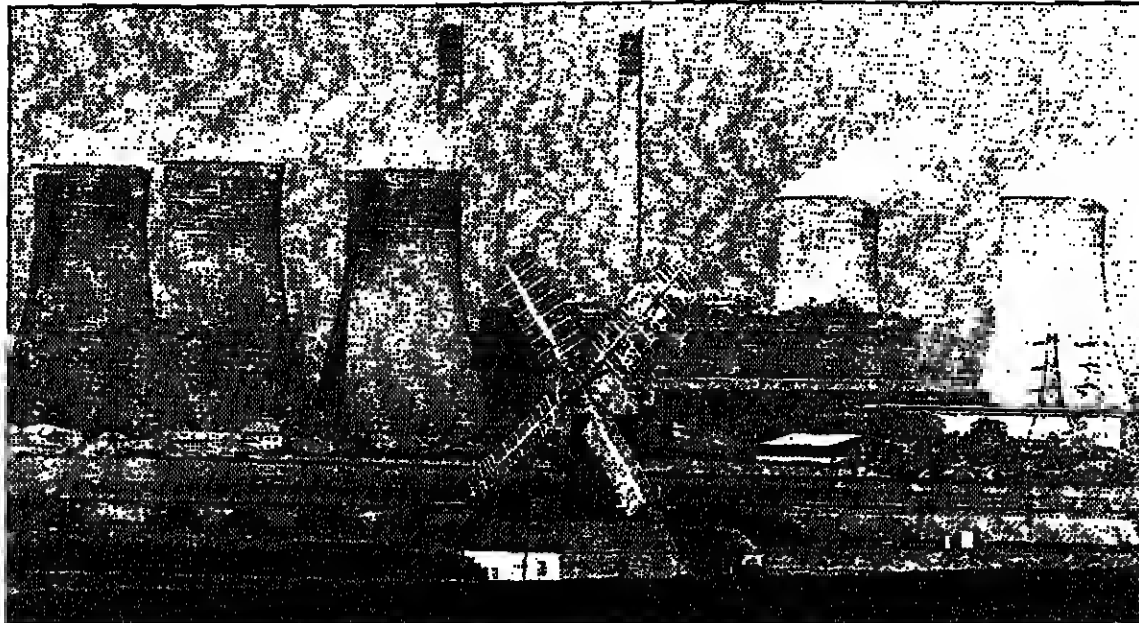
Creativity is intrinsic. It involves new insight on a solution to a problem. Innovation, on the other hand, is the process by which creative ideas or inventions are transformed into commercial products or processes.

Creativity can be stimulated or suppressed in those who have it, but it cannot be generated in those who do not. The creative scientist is often the one who breaks with collective thinking and challenges the assumptions underlying the prevailing paradigms or traditional teaching. Creative scientists usually prefer to work alone or as leaders of a group.

Innovation relates to the commercialization process and it is best accomplished by team effort because it requires multiple skills, persistence, flexibility, compromise and strong focus.

Another important element in the research process is chance. Many of the significant discoveries in chemistry were strictly empirical, based on experiment and observation, rather than on scientific principles, and were made following a false hypothesis or chance observation.

There is a clear example in the mid-1800s, William Perkin, aged 18, who was trying to oxidize a



Time in balance: the research process must be changed to help redress the damage done to ecology

compound to make quinone, came up with a dirty black solid. Most chemists would call this "gunk" and throw it away. But Perkin, later Sir William, extracted his "gunk" and, by chance, discovered a purple dye that became the basis for the synthetic chemical dye industry.

It would be a mistake to think of unexpected discoveries of this type as accidental. The truth lies in the words of Louis Pasteur's famous saying: "In the field of observation, chance favours only the prepared mind."

Hypothesis is the principal intellectual instrument in research. Its primary function is to suggest new experiments and it sometimes results in discoveries although incorrect in itself.

Society today is very environment conscious. We need to protect our natural resources to provide for our needs today and for our grandchildren's needs. Developments in molecular biology will help us to realize this goal.

There can be little doubt that, in the Eighties, the innovative development of transgenic crop plants by the use of genetic engineering was one of the great achievements in agricultural research. Transgenic plants are ordinary plants that have been altered in a beneficial way by the insertion of an additional gene.

Seeds for some plants of this type with resistance to herbicides or insects, bacteria, viruses and fungi will almost certainly become commercial realities in the mid-Nineties. Any new pesticides will have to satisfy the many criteria for environmental safety.

All of the unique commercial herbicides have been discovered by the use of empirical methods, which are based on the routine biological screening of non-targeted synthetic chemicals or natural products. It is not surprising that many of these products, although good herbicides, will be found to inhibit enzymes which are common to both plants and animals. In the future, such products will be increasingly difficult to register.

Continuing to rely on chance for both the discovery and safety of future pesticides would seem to be a

very high-risk proposition. Can a more efficient method be developed for this purpose? I believe that a method called biorational design will receive more emphasis in the discovery process.

This method is commonly employed in pharmaceutical research and has been successful in the discovery of some multi-million dollar products such as captopril, which is an antihypertensive drug. The approach uses a sequence of operations that is essentially the reverse of that followed by the empirical methods of discovery to use today. A unique enzyme target is selected first and then products are designed to inhibit the target. Perhaps this holds a vital key for research in the Nineties.

Dr John Franz began his career with Monsanto Research and Development in St Louis, Missouri, in 1955. In 1980 he was promoted to distinguished fellow and this year won the Perkin Medal awarded annually to a US resident in recognition of successful applied chemistry that results in an outstanding commercial development. This is an extract from his acceptance speech.

than the Sun, during the 1975 US-Soviet manned mission, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

At 59, Vance Brand, the commander of the seven-man crew of the Columbia, is the oldest astronaut to fly in space. He was also commander of the first fully operational flight of the shuttle system in 1982.

The latest flight, four of whose members are astronauts, carries the largest crew since the Challenger disaster. There is an mandatory retirement age for astronauts. The average age is 41.

PEARCE WRIGHT

## JOBS SCENE

## As Irish eyes are working...

Firms are looking no further than across the Irish Sea for the answer to their staff needs

Businesses are looking to the Irish Republic to solve problems of recruiting information technology staff for Britain, while increased job opportunities in the republic are encouraging Irish IT experts to return.

British firms see the republic as a way to reduce the cost of developing software by taking advantage of the larger numbers of graduates and lower salaries on offer compared with Britain.

Companies such as Norwich Union, Oracle, Electronic Data Systems and Third Wave Group are some of those to announce plans to open software development centres in Ireland this year.

One IT manager of a manufacturing firm in the Midlands says he has such trouble recruiting staff that he may move the entire computer operation to Ireland.

Also, Irish government concessions attract companies which are liable for only 10 per cent corporate tax until the year 2010 and are paid £6,000 to £10,000 per job created, with half the fee payable immediately and the remainder after 12 months if the job still exists.

"The number of IT companies has been rising steadily during the past few years but now many American insurance companies are moving over here, particularly in the past six to 12 months," John Gorman, director of the Irish Industrial Development Authority (IDA), says. "Many computer manufacturing firms are also adding a software development arm to their Irish plants."

Ryan Townsend, ICL's general manager of customer training, says: "The contrast between Ireland and the rest of the European Community

is dramatic. More than half the population is under 25 and Ireland has a higher proportion of computer science graduates than any other Community member state, with future plans to increase them by more than 50 per cent in the next three years."

ICL recently selected Dublin as its base for a European-wide expansion of training courses because of Ireland's abundant supply of highly qualified young people. Recently it advertised in Britain for staff to move to Ireland.

The IDA says half of all school graduates enter higher education and that more than half of those pursue business, technological and computing disciplines. The IDA estimates that there are now 300 IT companies in the Irish Republic. Salaries for IT staff are about 20 per cent lower than in Britain. Office rents are considerably cheaper.

The Third Wave Group, known for managing software development projects in countries such as India on behalf of British clients, opened an office in Dublin this year.

Many American financial services companies are establishing offices in Ireland to process clerical information which is then transmitted back to the US. But Ireland's greatest success has been in attracting foreign electronics manufacturing operations.

Most big American computer manufacturers have plants in Ireland and are heavily involved in research and development. The Irish plants are increasingly taking on original design projects, as opposed to assembling systems designed elsewhere.

These developments are increasing the opportunities for engineers, scientists and software engineers. Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) has been in Ireland for 20 years and employs more than 1,700 staff at its three manufacturing and software development centres. The company hires scientists in diverse areas such as thermal dynamics as it expands its engineering design operations.

LESLIE TILLEY

Two orbiting observatories, due to be launched separately, will open more 'windows' on the universe for astronomers

## New sights on X-ray radiation

WITH the dust scarcely settled from the launch of the Hubble space telescope, astronomers are poised this week to open new "windows" on the universe with two new orbiting observatories.

One, a 2.5-ton spacecraft called the Rosat (Roentgen satellite) X-ray astronomy project, is a collaborative venture between the US, Britain and West Germany planned for launch tomorrow by a Delta rocket, also from Cape Canaveral, Florida. It will conduct a systematic survey of the whole sky for six months, using a new generation of

telescopes devised by a group of pioneers in X-ray astronomy from Leicester University. They hope to find 100,000 new X-ray sources.

The other is a manned £90 million observatory called Astro-1 with four telescopes, carried by the space shuttle Columbia where they will remain during a 10-day mission. The launch planned for yesterday has been delayed. Equipment on Columbia

especially is designed to detect the energy flowing from violent eruptions in distant stars in the form of Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) radiation, but which falls in the part of the electromagnetic spectrum between visible light and radio waves that is the most difficult to "see" from the ground.

The problems of measuring EUV are even greater than those for all the other radiations such as X-rays, infra-

red and near ultraviolet that are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. Yet EUV radiation, which covers wavelengths between 4.4 and 91.2 nanometres, is an important factor in deciding the state and age of hot celestial objects.

This type of radiation was first detected coming from the intensely hot outer layer, or corona, of the Sun, consisting of gas at a temperature of more than 1 million °C.

Although an EUV detector should provide a device to probe some of the hottest bodies of the universe, one problem remains. Hydrogen is a powerful absorber of EUV radiation and interstellar space is filled with vast clouds of it. Hence, only a dozen other sources of EUV radiation, most of them closer than 250 light years, have been identified after the first discovery of a source, other

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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Continued on page 34



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## On the highway to help

**Switch on your car: it tells you that 25.9 miles ahead there is a tailback, it plots your alternative route, it warns you that a child is crossing at the corner, unseen by your eyes, and it applies its own brakes when the car ahead jolts suddenly to a stop.**

Such an "intelligent car" is being developed at more than 100 research laboratories across Europe in a bid to meet the challenge of our increasingly congested and hazardous roads.

The project harnesses the latest in microchip technology, on-board displays, telecommunications and sensors. These smart vehicles would be able to communicate with each other and with roadside transmitters and receivers to help drivers avoid accidents, find less congested routes and to improve the efficiency of motorway generally. Eighteen of the big automobile makers and more than 100 electronics and component supply firms have given their backing and full co-operation.

The project is called Prometheus (Programme for a European Traffic with Highest Efficiency and Unprecedented Safety), a collaborative venture launched under the Eurka banner three years ago.

Researchers, who are al-

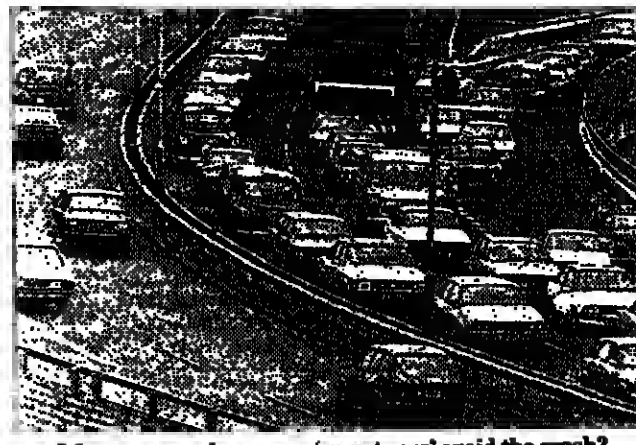
**The future car will make driving easier, advising on road hazards, 'talking' to cars in front, even braking if another car gets too close, Nick Nuttall reports**

most half-way through the programme, which is expected to take another four years of research, claim that the project may help ensure the survival of the car as a common form of transport.

Safety, including that of pedestrians and cyclists, is a major concern of the project. Many accidents are caused by drivers deciding to overtake

when the proximity of oncoming traffic makes the manoeuvre too dangerous.

The driver may be tired, have poor judgement or be hampered by fog or other bad weather conditions. Under Prometheus, researchers are developing sensors and communication systems that will alert a driver to a potentially dangerous manoeuvre.



Motorway madness: can 'smart cars' avoid the crash?

Sensors, linked to on-board computers, calculate the speed and distance of an oncoming vehicle, warning the driver that attempting to overtake is too dangerous.

The warnings may come in several ways: researchers are experimenting with "head-up" displays, already used in aeroplanes, which flash signals directly on to the windscreen.

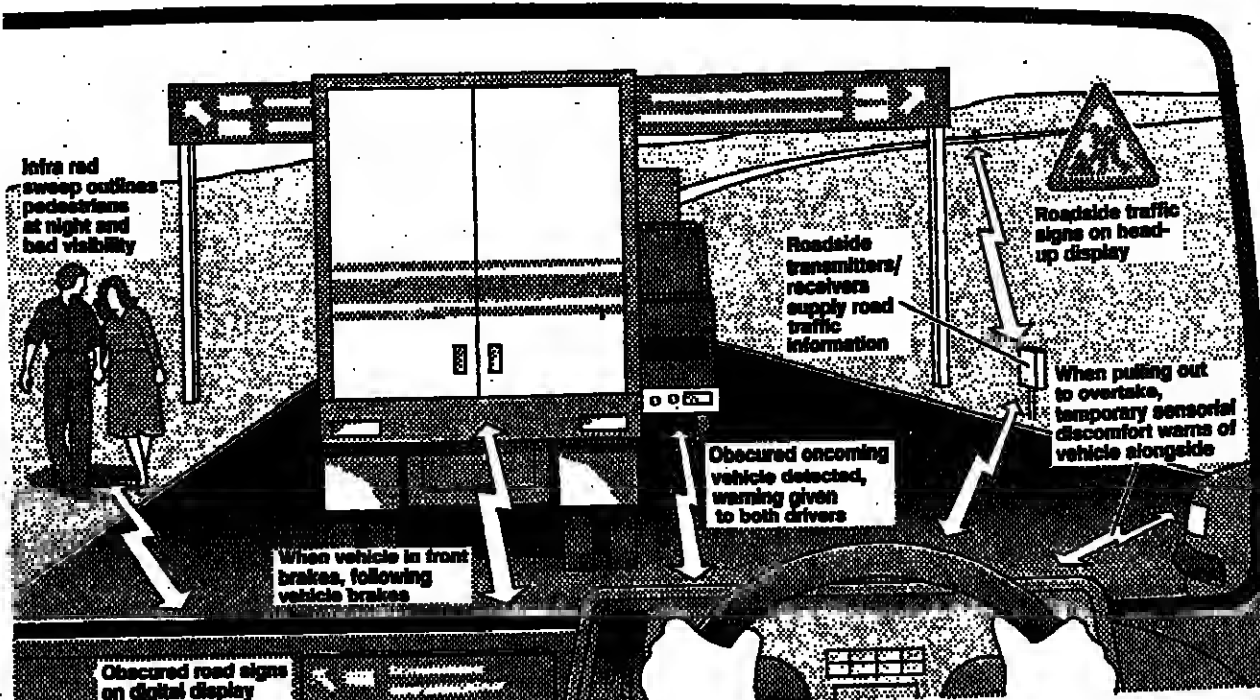
Other warning systems may include computer synthesized voice messages and "sonar warnings" in which a potentially dangerous move triggers a sensation of temporary discomfort to the driver via the seat or steering wheel.

Apart from warning drivers against risky moves, Prometheus also aims to alert drivers to places where special caution should be observed, such as near schools.

Again, a head-up display may flash on to the windscreen a picture of the familiar roadside red triangle which the driver might have missed.

Night-time driving has been identified as another hazard for pedestrians and drivers. Prometheus is developing an autonomous aid system to give the driver "cat's eyes".

This involves an infra-red sweep of the road ahead that also works in bad weather conditions, defining the silhou-



**'When a car brakes, it triggers the brakes of the vehicle behind'**

ettes of pedestrians and other objects on the road in the dark. Another system, using a radar-type system, is also being examined.

In a bid to prevent pile-ups, which are becoming a more worrying aspect of motorway driving, researchers are examining ways of developing a European-wide continuous communication between cars and roadside sensors. The system disseminates information to cars at points further along the road.

Another part of the programme involves the development of an automatic braking

system, thus removing from the driver the responsibility of reacting quickly enough in potential danger. This part of the project again relies on sensors and communication between vehicles so that when a car in front brakes, it triggers the brake system of the vehicle behind. According to the scheme's leading companies, which include Jaguar

and Rolls-Royce in Britain, Fiat in Italy, Volvo in Sweden and BMW and Daimler Benz in West Germany, many aspects of the project are now beginning to bear fruit.

Teams across Europe are now attempting to translate laboratory work into common European demonstrator models, whose systems can be built, tested and

budgeted to form a European standard. Hans-Peter Gläsel, who heads the Prometheus office based at Daimler Benz in Stuttgart, emphasizes that the project is not aimed at "crushing the driver under a technological dictatorship which takes every decision for him."

"However, an accident is an unintentional event. In most cases it occurs because the driver does not have the information fast enough or because stopping the vehicle requires the immediate activation of a complex chain of technical functions," he says.

## Cancer link in gene trial

A STUDY conducted on seven patients showed that human blood cells carrying foreign genes not only survived, but were also able to target tumours. It is the first approved attempt at human gene therapy — a technique which inserts potentially helpful genes inside the body. Dr Steven Rosenberg, a researcher at the US National Cancer Institute, says the trial will be followed up with a project to equip a patient's blood cells with a gene that delivers a powerful natural cancer-killing substance, known as tumor necrosis factor. Researchers hope this will cure the disease by blizzing the tumour with high levels of toxic proteins. Dr Rosenberg outlined his results at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology last week.

## Early rider

THE first direct proof that humans rode horses before the wheel was invented has been reported by a scientist who made a microscopic study of horse teeth, discovered in the Ukraine and buried about 4000 BC. This revealed scratches from a mouth bit that clearly indicate the horse had been ridden, according to David Anthony, assistant professor of anthropology at Hartwick College in New York. The traditional view is that horseback riding developed between 2000 BC and 1500 BC in the Ukraine. While there was archaeological evidence that riding may have occurred earlier, there was no direct evidence. Dr Anthony used a powerful scanning electron microscope to compare the casts with teeth from modern horses. If the horse was ridden, it would have been 500 to 700 years before the invention of the wheel.

## Speedy sums

A JAPANESE supercomputer made by Hitachi has become the fastest "single processor" machine in the world, beating the established leader, Cray Research. The Hitachi machine is not new, but has been able to triple speed by using software that improves its ability to handle certain scientific tasks. Although Cray still holds the record for the fastest multiprocessor system, the study, performed at an American energy department research centre, is likely to increase US concern that it is on the verge of losing the lead in supercomputers — an important area for both military and commercial uses. Next year, a range of new supercomputers is expected which will far exceed the performance of existing models.

## Earthquake fear

AN earthquake of "moderate magnitude" is being predicted within two years on the San Andreas fault between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

## BRIEFING

California has frequent small tremors, and about 20 with a magnitude greater than 2.5 on the Richter scale have been expected on the Parkfield segment since the beginning of 1986. As only four have been recorded in this period, researchers from the Co-operative Institute for Research in Environmental Science and the University of Colorado, writing in *Nature* magazine, suspect that stress is building up which will lead to a more serious earthquake.

## Feed the world

THE introduction of high yielding and tough varieties of rice to the Third World resulted in rice yields doubling between 1960 and 1987. Yields have stagnated recently. But according to Klaus Lampe, director-general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), they need to be increased by 10 million tonnes a year if present levels of malnutrition and hunger are not to worsen. The IRRI, based in the Philippines, expects world rice demand to rise to 760 million tonnes by 2020 from about 500 million today. It estimates 4.3 billion of the globe's projected population of 8 billion in 2020 will be rice consumers.

## The fat factors

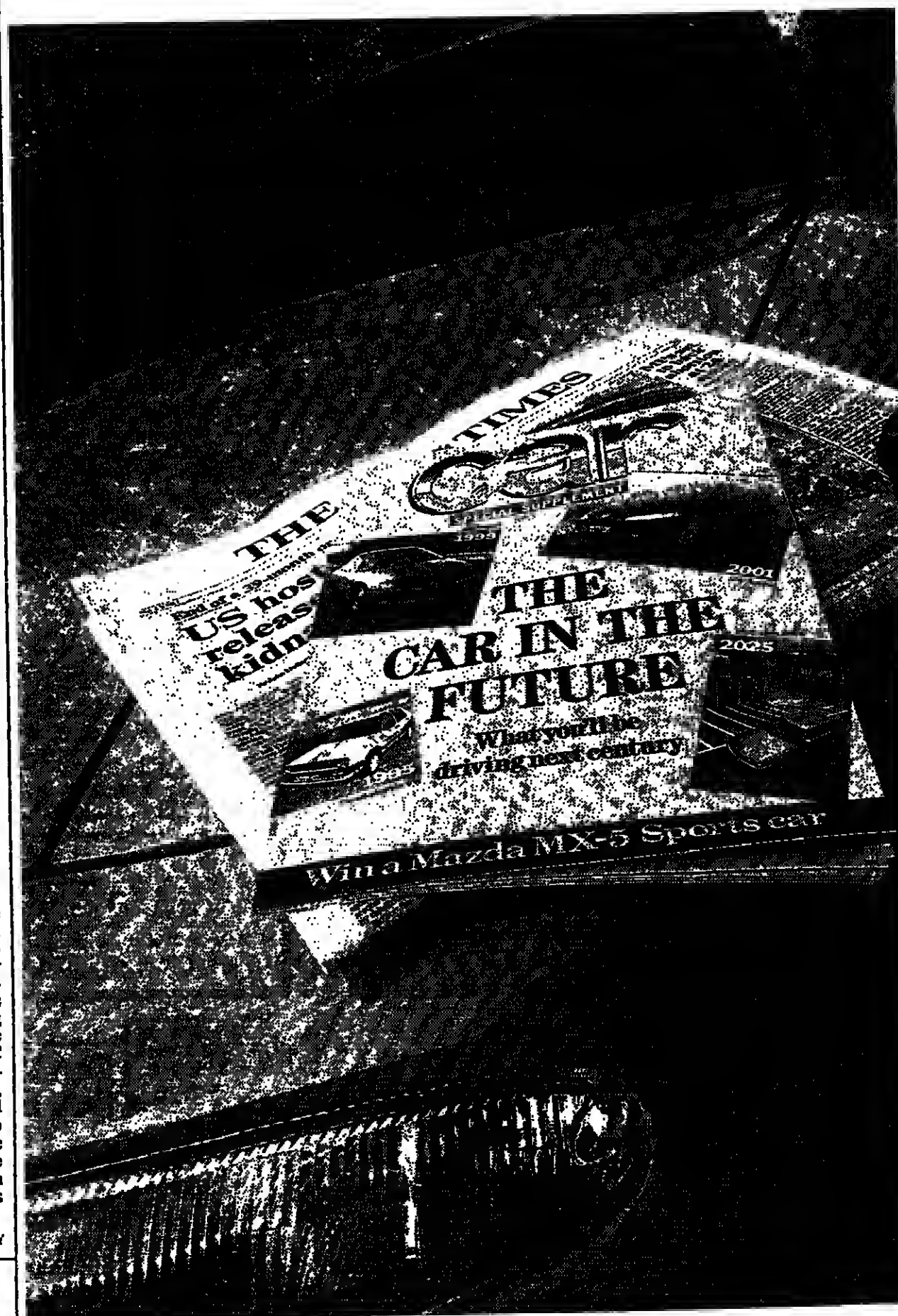
GENES are the main factors that determine whether people are going to be fat or thin and can even influence where the extra weight will occur. Researchers who have conducted two studies say that genes influence how much weight will be gained given a particular diet and other factors. "This influence is comfortably reversible to a certain level, but beyond a given threshold it becomes more and more difficult," says Dr Angelin Tremblay, a principal investigator of the first study, which was carried out at Laval University in Quebec and reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr Tremblay says the study suggests that "obesity" genes could one day identify people at risk for gaining weight. In the second study, conducted by Dr Albert Stunkard, of the University of Pennsylvania, it was found that genes account for 70 per cent of the variation in body weight and that childhood environment has no effect on adult weight.

## I just called...

THE European Community wants to settle on a common code throughout the EC for making international calls. Five countries already use the 00 code being recommended for wider use by Filippo Pandolfi, the EC commissioner for telecommunications. But Britain, Denmark, France and Ireland all use different numbers to get a telephone line out of the country. The common code was initially recommended in 1972, but progress towards adopting it has been slow.

MATTHEW MAY

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Analogue era is over

Digital circuitry has finally become financially competitive with analogue waves. Barry Fox looks at the benefits

The technology of home electronics is moving from the analogue to the digital. But this is not because the public cares about whether signals are processed as analogue waves or digital pulses.

As the electronics company ITT learned the hard way five years ago, when it launched a television set which cost more than usual because it had digital circuitry but which offered no obvious benefit, what the public cares about is cost and features.

However, the transition from analogue to digital is gathering momentum because digital can now offer more at a lower cost.

The vinyl LP is fast disappearing, a victim of the convenience of the digital compact disc. This is not just because of the audio quality available from digital discs.

Digital error-correction makes CDs far less susceptible to surface dirt, dust or scratches than a grooved analogue LP and the digital code is easily indexed to provide automated play of selected tracks in any order.

This year should at last see the launch of DAT, the digital audio tape cassette which was originally seen as a replacement for the Philips analogue compact cassette. Behind the scenes, Philips has been working on a digital version of the compact cassette.

Manufacturers have good reason to invest in the switch from analogue to digital. Putting a complex digital circuit on to a micro-chip is far easier than integrating the analogue equivalent.

Although the design of any integrated circuit can cost millions of pounds, chips can thereafter be mass produced for pence.

Mass production should result in lower prices and higher reliability. When a consumer product fails, it is seldom a digital fault, but is usually a

mechanical part which causes the problem.

The public has not yet acquired a taste of the real, but hidden, benefits of home digital recording. But it is these benefits which will make the technology a hot political potato.

To tape-record an analogue audio signal, either from an LP gramophone or the analogue outputs of a CD player, care must be taken to set the input gain control of the tape recorder so that the level meters do not move into the red, signifying overload of the tape and distortion of the sound.

Even if the level is set on a dummy run over the first few minutes of music, any surprise musical peaks later on will still spoil the recording.

Videotape recorders rely on automatic level controls and quality soon falls off if an attempt is made to copy a tape more than a few times, as is necessary for editing the fast-growing number of home-shot video movies.

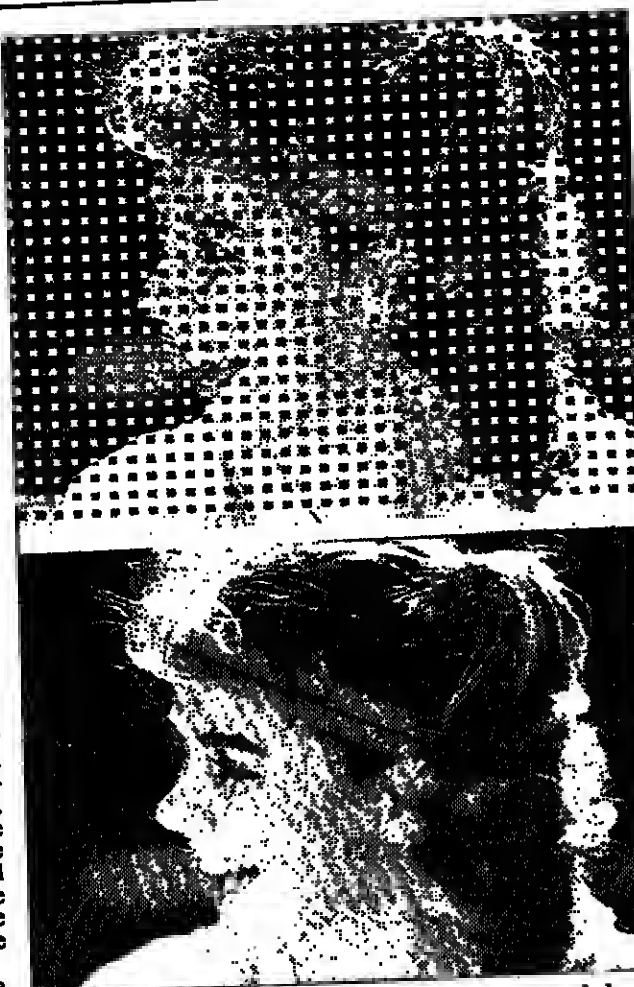
Compare this with copying a computer program or text file; only the copy command need be entered, there are no level controls to be set and no meters to read and watch for red overload.

Every copy is perfect and every copy of a copy, or clone, is as good as the last. Digital dubbing from CD in DAT will be just as easy.

But home video still remains an analogue island. Although the new generation of video discs, known as CD Video or Laserdisc, has digital stereo soundtracks, the pictures are recorded as an analogue signal.

All domestic video-recorders tape pictures as an analogue signal. The label digital seen on some domestic VCRs is misleading. It denotes only that the recorder incorporates a digital memory.

Technically, it is a tall order to record moving pictures in



Home digital video: only part of the picture is recorded

digital code. If the 25 individual pictures a second which go to make up a European 625 line PAL broadcast signal are directly converted into code, the number of bits of digital information generated per second is some 100 times the number needed for CD-quality stereo.

There are already two types of professional video-recorder which can achieve this. The D1 and D2 formats. But the technology does not come cheap. D2 recorders start at more than £40,000 and D1 recorders cost nearer £200,000.

To get the prices down, digital video-recorders for the home will rely on data compression, to reduce the number of bits per second.

No attempt is made to record all 25 pictures a second in full; instead some are recorded in full, then the differences between them are analysed and recorded.

Philips recently demonstrated circuitry which compresses the bit stream for digital video to under 1.5 Mbit/second. This is the technology, called Full Motion Video, which lets a 12 cm compact disc store up to 72 minutes of moving video.

Philips is working with Matsushita in Japan and Motorola in the US to produce integrated circuits which, from next year, will be incorporated into domestic players costing about £600.

Both Sony and Matsushita have separately demonstrated prototype domestic videotape recorders where three hours of high-quality pictures can be stored on a small cassette.

The circuitry has not yet been integrated, but the technology is ready to be exploited and, on purely technical grounds, there could be a digital video-recorder in the shops within a few years.

However, this will be prevented by commercial and political pressure. The film industry resists anything that makes it easier to choose programme material.

The idea of selecting a film from a library and transmitting it via a telephone line to a digital video-recorder is even further off. Even the latest large-capacity phone links will provide moving-picture quality adequate only for video-phone communications.

Images are smeared and jerky. Full-quality video needs an optic fibre link into the home.

Why do cells in laboratory cultures curl up and die after dividing a finite number of times? What link, if any, is there to the ageing process and to death? Dr Calvin Harley, a biochemist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has been pondering these questions for 15 years, (Henry Gee writes).

The paper that set Dr Harley thinking was an obscure and highly speculative article in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, published in 1973, when he was still a graduate student.

The answer to the question of cell mortality, suggested by the author, Soviet researcher Dr A. M. Olovnikov, would lie in the chromosomes — the strands of the nucleic acid, DNA, that contain the genetic instructions, regulating all aspects of the cell's activities.

Chromosomes are copied every time a cell divides, and they are linear, with distinct ends.

Just like pieces of string, chromosome ends tend to fray with repeated use. Dr Olovnikov noticed that older cells had shorter chromosomes than younger cells, as if the chromosomes gradually got worn away at the ends, and a small amount of DNA was

## A tiny key to the secret of youth

being lost in every round of cell division. He coined the term "marginotomy" for this gradual loss.

To prevent the irredeemable loss of vital genetic information, the ends of chromosomes are made of constant-free junk DNA. These are called telomeres, and buffer the chromosomes against gene loss: a little bit of telomere is shaved off after every cell division.

But once the telomeres on a chromosome run out, vital genes would be exposed: the cell would lose genetic information and start to malfunction, age, sicken and die.

Dr Harley wondered what part telomeres played in cells that had become cancerous. Cell lines established from tumours are effectively immortal: did these cells have some way of getting round the irrevocable loss of telomeres?

Dr Harley could not really address this question until the genetic structure of telomeres had been worked out. In the mid-Eighties, he met Dr Carol

Greider — now at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York State — who had been working on this problem with her doctorate supervisor, Dr Elizabeth Blackburn, of the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Blackburn's group had found the genetic sequence of telomeres but not in humans. They had been studying a single-celled organism called *Tetrahymena thermophila*.

When the structure of human telomeres became known, Dr Harley and Dr Greider could finally start work.

In this week's *Nature* magazine they, along with Cold Spring Harbor colleague Dr Bruce Futcher, present results that confirm Dr Olovnikov's suspicions — that cells tend to lose their telomeres as they age.

But a direct, causal link between ageing and telomere loss remains elusive as yet. "Nothing we have done gives

us any information about cause and effect," Dr Futcher says. It is not even quite certain, yet, whether telomere loss with age is as clear-cut as the researchers' results suggest.

There is, though, a way to get round telomere loss. In 1985, Dr Blackburn and Dr Greider found that *Tetrahymena* cells could build up their telomeres with a special enzyme they called telomerase.

Earlier this year, Dr Blackburn and her group showed that *Tetrahymena* cells with defective telomerase aged much more quickly than normal. Could telomerase explain why cancer cells can divide without limit, subverting the normal course of ageing? Dr Harley thinks that it is far too early to tell.

Cancer cells are odd in that they have very short telomeres. But their very shortness, may partly explain why cancer is often a disease of later life. Once telomeres get short, they start running into problems: chromosomes with short telomeres sometimes stick to one another at the ends, fouling up the process of cell division. This could lead to cell death, or the growths that lead to cancer.

Nature Times News Service 1990

## The danger lurking in your cup

CONSUMPTION of huge amounts of alcohol in a short time is known to be fatal. Now the same is being said of coffee.

Research shows that huge quantities of caffeine can seriously damage the genetic material, DNA. Caffeine is a drug that resembles some of the constituents of DNA. So a molecule of caffeine can slip, unnoticed, into DNA and cause trouble.

The report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by Dr Christopher Selby and Dr Aziz Sancar, of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, shows exactly how caffeine can cause mischief.

DNA can be damaged by ultraviolet light, which occurs in sunshine or sunbeds, leading to problems such as skin cancer. But cells also have a form of help known as photoreactivation enzymes, which shuttle along the DNA, repairing the damage.

Caffeine in DNA prevents one of these enzymes, photolyase, getting to damaged DNA and doing its job so the damaged DNA stays unrepaired.

That is not the only problem. Other enzymes repair DNA by cutting out the damaged section and replacing it with a new bit. Caffeine

makes a nuisance of itself by impersonating a damaged piece of DNA, diverting the enzymes from "real" lesions.

But there is no need to cut the habit of a lifetime as yet. Dr Selby and Dr Sancar did their experiments on bacteria. To achieve the concentrations

of caffeine in the blood to produce the effects seen in bacteria, a person would need to drink 75 to 100 cups of coffee in a very short time.

This would mean a fatal intake of 10g of caffeine. HENRY GEE

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Hidden risk: a molecule of caffeine can slip, unnoticed, into DNA and cause havoc

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 32

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A rejuvenated Ian Botham and a cavalier Vivian Richards resume their cricket war

# Worcestershire move to semi-finals

By ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**WORCESTER** (Glamorgan won toss): Worcester beat Glamorgan by seven wickets. THE theory that Ian Botham can no longer rise above an ordinary game and direct its destiny was abruptly decided yesterday. Briefly, we were watching the bouncing, brilliant bowler of remote memory suffocating Glamorgan's ambitions and steering Worcestershire towards the semi-finals.

Harsh though it may be on How Morris, whose lonely century against the odds was a classic of its kind, this was an essentially low-key match, which will be best remembered for the evocative manner in which Botham influenced it.

Glamorgan were 119 for one, loyally trying to vindicate Alan Botham's curious decision to bat first, when Botham was recalled for the 34th over. In his first spell, he had run in keenly and swung the ball prodigiously without product. Now, his first ball had the rigid Holmes flashing outside off stump and brilliantly caught by Rhodes.

Two balls later, Maynard went uncertainly back when he should have been forward and this time the out-swing was edged comfortably to the keeper. Glamorgan's platform had been unceremoniously demolished and as Botham celebrated in the unashamed style of old, who should saunter to the wicket but his soulmate Viv Richards.

The stuff of tabloid dreams was now being enacted, but not for long. Richards saw off the remainder of Botham's over, only to get out at the other end, hitting across the line against Radford, whose four wickets were a fitting farewell before he enters hospital for an abdominal operation which could keep him out for six weeks.

Both Radford and Botham were grateful to bowl in the muggy, overcast conditions of the morning. So, too, were Worcestershire's other international bowlers, Dilley and Newport. The ball swung and the outfield, on which overnight rain had created a muddy legacy of the winter floods, was slow. So why, against all local explanation, did Butcher bat first?

He evidently has a low opinion of Glamorgan's ability to chase runs. But this was handing the tactical initiative to some highly accomplished bowlers in helpful conditions.

Only Morris prevented consequent rout. Without Hick and Illingworth, Worcestershire had a stereotype but functional attack. Dilley, after a few looseners, had Butcher caught at point and when Newport came on, Holmes was put down by Botham at second slip. Lunning at 87 for one, Glamorgan were rightly satisfied and when Morris, felled on some shoddy short fare from Lampitt they were eyeing 250. Botham promptly lowered their sights.

He is bowling faster and off a more purposeful approach than for some years and, with the out-swing apparently restored, estimates that he would have to justify England selection as a batsman alone will have to be revised. Morris had made his 106 out of 168 when he was out, trying to make the best of an unworkable situation. Radford wrapped things up and, as Worcestershire began their reply, the sun came out to provide the best batting conditions of the day.

Glamorgan did not bowl badly. Watkin was constantly taxing and Cowley's gentle off-breaks were miserly but Curtis and Nicolle dismissed all doubts with a second wicket stand of 98.

Botham's subsequent innings was a sideshow but still good value — two thundering drives and then a misjudgement against Richards, which the West Indian captain acclaimed as if the World Cup had been won. It was a good-natured diversion, while Curtis solidly drove the main road to victory.

**GLAMORGAN**  
H Morris c O'Brien b Newport 106  
R R Boucher c O'Brien b Dilley 16  
O C Holmes c Rhodes b Botham 16  
M P Maynard c Rhodes b Botham 2  
I Smith b Radford 2  
N G Cowley c Newport b Weston 3  
J P Rhodes not out 12  
S J Watkin c Rhodes b Radford 3  
S R Barwick not out 13  
M P Maynard b Radford 17  
Extras (b 7, w 5, nb 5) 17  
Total (54.3 overs) 191  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30.2-119.3-119.4-138.5-158.6-168.7-181.8-191.  
BOWLING: Dilley 11-0-39-1; Radford 16-3-26-4; Newport 11-3-34-2; Botham 10-2-29-2; Lunning 4-0-38-0; Weston 6-1-21-1.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**  
T S Curtis not out 78  
I V A Smith c O'Brien b Dilley 25  
P A Maynard b Watkin 22  
I T Botham b Richards 22  
J P Rhodes not out 12  
S J Watkin c O'Brien b Dilley 12  
Extras (b 6, w 3, nb 1) 12  
Total (53.2 overs) 195  
O A Leathley, S R Lampitt, P A Maynard, I V A Smith, I T Botham and J P Rhodes did not bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48.2-146.3-176.4-181.5-187.6-191.7-195.8-195.9-195.10-195.11-195.12-195.13-195.14-195.15-195.16-195.17-195.18-195.19-195.20-195.21-195.22-195.23-195.24-195.25-195.26-195.27-195.28-195.29-195.30-195.31-195.32-195.33-195.34-195.35-195.36-195.37-195.38-195.39-195.40-195.41-195.42-195.43-195.44-195.45-195.46-195.47-195.48-195.49-195.50-195.51-195.52-195.53-195.54-195.55-195.56-195.57-195.58-195.59-195.60-195.61-195.62-195.63-195.64-195.65-195.66-195.67-195.68-195.69-195.70-195.71-195.72-195.73-195.74-195.75-195.76-195.77-195.78-195.79-195.80-195.81-195.82-195.83-195.84-195.85-195.86-195.87-195.88-195.89-195.90-195.91-195.92-195.93-195.94-195.95-195.96-195.97-195.98-195.99-195.100-195.101-195.102-195.103-195.104-195.105-195.106-195.107-195.108-195.109-195.110-195.111-195.112-195.113-195.114-195.115-195.116-195.117-195.118-195.119-195.120-195.121-195.122-195.123-195.124-195.125-195.126-195.127-195.128-195.129-195.130-195.131-195.132-195.133-195.134-195.135-195.136-195.137-195.138-195.139-195.140-195.141-195.142-195.143-195.144-195.145-195.146-195.147-195.148-195.149-195.150-195.151-195.152-195.153-195.154-195.155-195.156-195.157-195.158-195.159-195.160-195.161-195.162-195.163-195.164-195.165-195.166-195.167-195.168-195.169-195.170-195.171-195.172-195.173-195.174-195.175-195.176-195.177-195.178-195.179-195.180-195.181-195.182-195.183-195.184-195.185-195.186-195.187-195.188-195.189-195.190-195.191-195.192-195.193-195.194-195.195-195.196-195.197-195.198-195.199-195.200-195.201-195.202-195.203-195.204-195.205-195.206-195.207-195.208-195.209-195.210-195.211-195.212-195.213-195.214-195.215-195.216-195.217-195.218-195.219-195.220-195.221-195.222-195.223-195.224-195.225-195.226-195.227-195.228-195.229-195.230-195.231-195.232-195.233-195.234-195.235-195.236-195.237-195.238-195.239-195.240-195.241-195.242-195.243-195.244-195.245-195.246-195.247-195.248-195.249-195.250-195.251-195.252-195.253-195.254-195.255-195.256-195.257-195.258-195.259-195.260-195.261-195.262-195.263-195.264-195.265-195.266-195.267-195.268-195.269-195.270-195.271-195.272-195.273-195.274-195.275-195.276-195.277-195.278-195.279-195.280-195.281-195.282-195.283-195.284-195.285-195.286-195.287-195.288-195.289-195.290-195.291-195.292-195.293-195.294-195.295-195.296-195.297-195.298-195.299-195.300-195.301-195.302-195.303-195.304-195.305-195.306-195.307-195.308-195.309-195.310-195.311-195.312-195.313-195.314-195.315-195.316-195.317-195.318-195.319-195.320-195.321-195.322-195.323-195.324-195.325-195.326-195.327-195.328-195.329-195.330-195.331-195.332-195.333-195.334-195.335-195.336-195.337-195.338-195.339-195.340-195.341-195.342-195.343-195.344-195.345-195.346-195.347-195.348-195.349-195.350-195.351-195.352-195.353-195.354-195.355-195.356-195.357-195.358-195.359-195.360-195.361-195.362-195.363-195.364-195.365-195.366-195.367-195.368-195.369-195.370-195.371-195.372-195.373-195.374-195.375-195.376-195.377-195.378-195.379-195.380-195.381-195.382-195.383-195.384-195.385-195.386-195.387-195.388-195.389-195.390-195.391-195.392-195.393-195.394-195.395-195.396-195.397-195.398-195.399-195.400-195.401-195.402-195.403-195.404-195.405-195.406-195.407-195.408-195.409-195.410-195.411-195.412-195.413-195.414-195.415-195.416-195.417-195.418-195.419-195.420-195.421-195.422-195.423-195.424-195.425-195.426-195.427-195.428-195.429-195.430-195.431-195.432-195.433-195.434-195.435-195.436-195.437-195.438-195.439-195.440-195.441-195.442-195.443-195.444-195.445-195.446-195.447-195.448-195.449-195.450-195.451-195.452-195.453-195.454-195.455-195.456-195.457-195.458-195.459-195.460-195.461-195.462-195.463-195.464-195.465-195.466-195.467-195.468-195.469-195.470-195.471-195.472-195.473-195.474-195.475-195.476-195.477-195.478-195.479-195.480-195.481-195.482-195.483-195.484-195.485-195.486-195.487-195.488-195.489-195.490-195.491-195.492-195.493-195.494-195.495-195.496-195.497-195.498-195.499-195.500-195.501-195.502-195.503-195.504-195.505-195.506-195.507-195.508-195.509-195.510-195.511-195.512-195.513-195.514-195.515-195.516-195.517-195.518-195.519-195.520-195.521-195.522-195.523-195.524-195.525-195.526-195.527-195.528-195.529-195.530-195.531-195.532-195.533-195.534-195.535-195.536-195.537-195.538-195.539-195.540-195.541-195.542-195.543-195.544-195.545-195.546-195.547-195.548-195.549-195.550-195.551-195.552-195.553-195.554-195.555-195.556-195.557-195.558-195.559-195.560-195.561-195.562-195.563-195.564-195.565-195.566-195.567-195.568-195.569-195.570-195.571-195.572-195.573-195.574-195.575-195.576-195.577-195.578-195.579-195.580-195.581-195.582-195.583-195.584-195.585-195.586-195.587-195.588-195.589-195.590-195.591-195.592-195.593-195.594-195.595-195.596-195.597-195.598-195.599-195.600-195.601-195.602-195.603-195.604-195.605-195.606-195.607-195.608-195.609-195.610-195.611-195.612-195.613-195.614-195.615-195.616-195.617-195.618-195.619-195.620-195.621-195.622-195.623-195.624-195.625-195.626-195.627-195.628-195.629-195.630-195.631-195.632-195.633-195.634-195.635-195.636-195.637-195.638-195.639-1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● RACING: 37  
● CRICKET: 38  
● FOOTBALL: 39

# Surrey nine o'clock shadow

By JOHN WOODCOCK

NEEDING a formidable 280 to beat Lancashire, Surrey were still very much in with a chance of getting them as the sun began to go down at Old Trafford yesterday. The start had been delayed for an hour by overnight and morning rain, and there were already echoes of the famous match here in 1971 when Lancashire beat Gloucestershire in the Gillette Cup just before 9pm.

The dismissal of Stewart, second out at 160 in the fourth over when he was playing with much abandon, came as a respite for Lancashire. Stewart and Clinton had made 123 together for Surrey's second wicket and conditions could hardly have been better for batting, morning cloud having given way to evening sunshine.

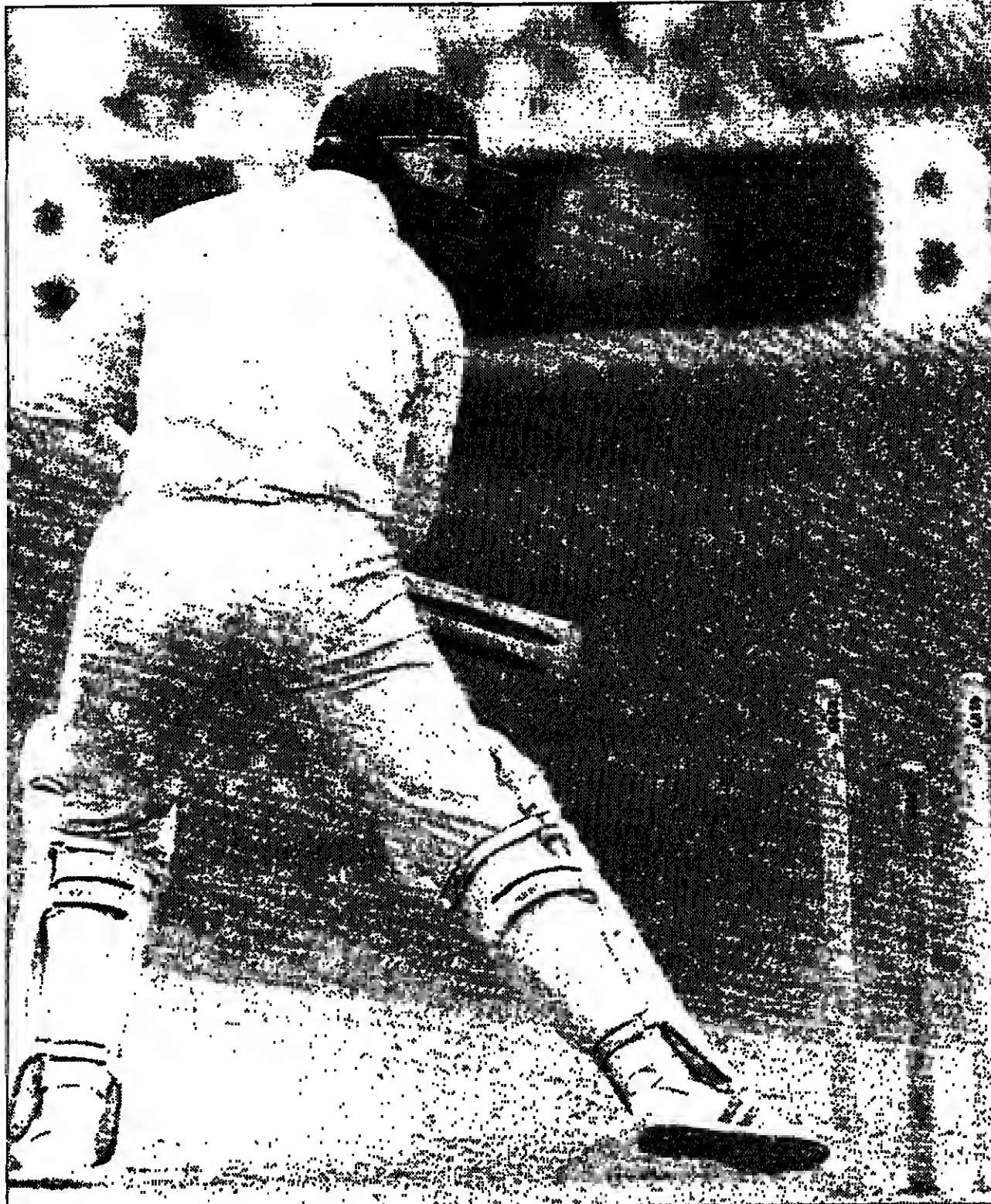
Once Fowler and Atherton had settled in, after Mendis had been out in the ninth over, there was a certain inevitability about Lancashire's innings. The appearance of Waqar Younis opening Surrey's bowling caused less surprise, I suppose, than if Bicknell, his partner, had walked out to do the same for the United Bank in Multan, which is Waqar's home side.

But it was still unexpected. The most promising of Pakistan's present Test attack, Waqar had been cleared to play at breakfast time, as a stand-in for Gray, Surrey's injured West Indian. The second of Waqar's two wickets was his opposite number for the Pakistan National Shipping Organization, Wasim Akram.

Fowler and Atherton added 172 together in 35 overs and very well they played on a pitch which looked as they do, if you like, in Multan. No one picks up the leg-side half-volley, or something just short of it, better than Fowler. A lot of his runs came that way. To see Atherton established at No. 3 for Lancashire, followed by Fairbrother at four, is most heartening. At last, in Atherton, we have a young right-handed English batsman who stands properly, a real talent and the right sort of temperament.

Yesterday Fowler's 96 came off 140 balls and Atherton's 74 off 105. They both bided their time and built their innings. Fairbrother, for his part, threw the bat as soon as he came in. He begins to look, at times, encouragingly like Allan Border, and it was good to hear that if he gets another chance for England he intends to play his natural game, rather than allowing himself to be persuaded that that would never do in a Test match.

His unbeaten 61, in 36 balls, took his aggregate for the season to exactly 1,000 — and that excludes the 145 he scored for Lancashire against



Clean bowled: Lilley, of Essex, has his defiant stand brought to an end in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final match against Nottinghamshire at Chelmsford yesterday. Notts won by six wickets. Report page 38

Hampshire in the Benson and Hedges Cup, but in a match which fell foul of the weather. Of those that are recognised, no fewer than 573 were against Surrey. He must have saved a great many, too, with his splendid fielding.

Having helped to contain Fairbrother's partners by catching three of them and running out another, Lynch was now sent in, in the absence of Darren Bicknell (broken knuckle) to open Surrey's innings with Clinton. He is capable of winning almost anything if he gets a start, and there were enough dazzling strokes for Lancashire to be relieved to see the back of

him, caught at slip in Allott's seventh over. By tea (25 overs) Surrey were 75 for one, their asking rate having already risen from five to seven runs an over.

With 20 overs to go and Stewart enjoying himself, Surrey needed 149. Having thought they had the game in hand, Lancashire were beginning to have their doubts. Wides abounded, a sure sign of anxiety; words were exchanged when Stewart survived a concerted appeal for a catch at the wicket off Watkinson, another indication of the same emotion. Surrey still had a great deal to do, but the conditions were there for the trying.

**LANCASHIRE**  
O O Mendis c and b Bicknell 9  
G Fowler c Bicknell b Waqar 96  
M A Atherton c Lynch b Murphy 74  
N H Fairbrother not out 61  
M Watkinson c Lynch b Murphy 4  
Wasim Akram c Lynch b Waqar 6  
P A J DeFreitas run out 0  
T W K Heggie run out 10  
Extras (b A B B, w 6, nb 5) 23  
Total (6 wickets, 55 overs) 279  
\* P Hughes, I O Austin and P J W Allott did not bat.

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-28, 2-106, 3-203, 4-285, 5-248, 6-249.  
**SCORING PARTNERSHIP:** 11-2-61-1; Waqar 11-0-55-2; Bicknell 11-2-37-0; Murphy 11-1-61-2; Medley 11-0-53-0.

**SURREY**  
M A Lynch c Fowler b Allott 24  
G P Thorpe, D M Ward, J A Gray, K T Medley, C K Butler, M P Bicknell, Waqar Younis and A J Murphy to bat.  
Extras 157  
Total (6 wickets, 55 overs) 157  
\* P Hughes, I O Austin and P J W Allott did not bat.

## Heanor too bumpy

DERBYSHIRE have switched their Refuge Assurance League game against Nottinghamshire from Heanor to Derby on June 10. Lack of rain has made it impossible for the Heanor club to get part of the outfield, which is used as a football pitch, into a reasonable condition and it is thought to be potentially dangerous.

## Williams benefit

THE Northamptonshire all-rounder, Richard Williams, received £100,053 from his benefit last year, despite playing only four championship games through injury. Williams, aged 32, recorded Northants' second-highest benefit total, behind Allan Lamb's £135,000 in 1988.

## Seeking safety of the grass

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
PARIS

THE French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, had it about right. *La cimetière des éléphants* read its headline the morning after the demise of Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker in the first round of the French Open tennis tournament. Elephants! Thankfully, the left for home and a quiet contemplation of what went wrong. They did not see the poster stall at Roland Garros, where their pictures had been put to the bottom of the pile in disgrace.

Edberg has decided to get straight back into tournament play by competing for the first time at the Direct Line Insurance tournament at Beckenham next week. As Pat Cash, another former Wimbledon champion, and Ivan Lendl, who has sacrificed his whole year to become a Wimbledon champion, are in the field, Beckenham has become a strong test of nerve.

Becker's movements are more mysterious. He is unlikely to play at Beckenham, though the tournament organisers will hold a wild card for him. More likely the Wimbledon champion will take up the offer of a wild card for the Stella Artois at Queen's.

Both Edberg and Becker will be anxious to write off their disastrous clay-court seasons and get back to the comfort of the grass. That might be easier for Edberg than Becker because, while the Swede has lost a vital two weeks of his clay-court preparation with an ankle injury and has not had his regular coach, Tony Pickard, to dispel his self-expressed fear of clay, Becker has no such excuses in his locker.

In the build-up to Paris, he played all the tournaments he wanted and, until he met Juan Aguilera in the final of Hamburg, had showed signs of coming to terms with clay-court tennis. Since he played so emphatically to win the Davis Cup final for West Germany at the end of last year, Becker seems to have lost the champion's art of winning and, with Wimbledon only three and a half weeks away, he only has limited time to recover it.

True, he has won two titles this year — Brussels and Stuttgart — but neither taxed him unduly. Otherwise, he has lost to Steeb, Wilander (in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open), Agassi, Flavia, Emilio Sanchez, Aguilera, Arrese and now Ivanisevic. So far, this has been a meandering year for the West German, full of personal distractions. At the age of 22, with many millions in the bank, Becker has discovered that there is life outside a tennis court.

A magazine interview highlighted insecurities about such diverse topics as patriotism and wealth.

He has finished a long-standing relationship with his student girlfriend and played for much of the year like someone with other things on his mind. Motivation at least should not be a problem for the next few weeks. He has a title to defend, a year to rescue and some confidence to rebuild.

Pickard did not appreciate Edberg's gutless performance against Sergi Bruguera. Unlike Becker, the fault with the Swede is more likely to be technical than mental. "My serve isn't right at the moment; so I'll just have to work hard on it over the next few weeks. I think it will be all right by Wimbledon," he said. If that is the case, all will be well with the Swede; if not, the centre court could prove to be another burial ground for elephants.

## Taylor's way is clear for England job

FROM STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
CAGLIARI

GRAHAM Taylor, who guided Aston Villa in second place in the first division last season, will be interviewed within the next eight days by the Football Association about becoming manager of England.

The way for Taylor to succeed Bobby Robson as England manager after the World Cup finals was cleared yesterday when Villa announced that they had given permission for him to be interviewed by the FA.

From England's World Cup headquarters in Sardinia, Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, indicated that the interview would be held "within days rather than weeks". This suggested it would be before the start of the World Cup a week tomorrow.

Taylor said: "My reaction is one of being flattered and honoured that the FA should consider me for the England job. It's an acknowledgement that I have done my job successfully as a club manager over a period of time."

"But I don't consider my appointment is automatic because the FA will have questions to ask of me and I will have questions to ask of them."

Those questions are bound to include the exact conditions and specification for the job. Taylor is a determined and independent person, as he showed when leaving behind a virtually guaranteed job at Watford to take over as manager of a more turbulent club in Aston Villa.

He would want to know of the FA if he would be required to direct coaching nationally or would he be expected to concentrate on the managing the national team? Charles Hughes was named this year as the FA's director of coaching and he is considered sympathetic towards Taylor, so the likelihood is that Taylor would be asked to focus his attention on motivating the England team rather than to spread his talent.

Taylor said: "Obviously, I'd like everything resolved the sooner the better, for the sake of Aston Villa and their supporters and the Football Association."

Although speculation has been increasingly rife ever since Robson's intentions to resign were revealed last week, Taylor had not received an official approach until this week. Yet he was the

## GRAHAM TAYLOR

BORN: Sept 15, 1944, Worksop.  
CAREER DETAILS: As player, 1962-1972. Clubs: Grimsby Town, Lincoln City, 341 League appearances, 3 goals. Honours: none. As manager: 1972-1989. Clubs: Lincoln City, Watford, Aston Villa. Honours: Lincoln: Fourth division championship; Watford: Fourth division championship; third division runners-up; second division runners-up; first division runners-up; FA Cup finalists. Aston Villa: Second division runners-up; first division runners-up.  
When he took over at Lincoln in December 1972, he became the youngest manager in the League.

outstanding candidate once Howard Kendall, his closest rival, announced that he was voluntarily dropping out of contention to remain in charge of Manchester City.

As long as Villa receives satisfactory financial compensation for the loss of Taylor — they are thought to be asking £250,000 — it seems likely that Taylor will be appointed and probably before England play their first World Cup tie against the Republic of Ireland in Cagliari on June 11.

If so, Taylor would be in a position to fly to Italy earlier than expected to see the team that he would inherit, although he would not want to be with the team or at Robson's shoulder: that could be disconcerting. He is scheduled to comment for ITV — from the London studios and from Italy — and he would be reluctant to inhibit Robson's plans by arriving before the appointment is official.

Taylor still has a year of his Villa contract to run and his annual salary is believed to be about £100,000. He is not paid as highly as Terry Venables, who is thought to be another contender, but he receives more than Robson. Robson has agreed to join the Dutch club PSV Eindhoven after the World Cup on a two-year contract thought to be worth £400,000.

Villa's statement yesterday said: "At a board meeting held today, the directors agreed to allow Graham Taylor to be interviewed by the Football Association for the position of England team manager. This is subject to the Football Association agreeing to certain conditions which we have put before them. We await their response."

Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, is keen to have compensation for Taylor, although, as a senior figure in football and member of several FA committees, he may not want to press beyond reasonable bounds.

## Wright is back in the running

FROM STUART JONES

BOBBY Robson confirmed yesterday that Mark Wright, rather than returning to England as had been a possibility, could be on his way back into the national side. In the last 48 hours, the player Robson described as "our best finishing centre half" has removed doubts about his fitness and his ability.

Wright's contribution, though it lasted for less than a quarter of the fixture against Cagliari on Tuesday afternoon, was the most significant. It overshadowed the feats of Bull and Platt, who each scored twice in the deceptive 6-0 victory, and provoked England's manager to reassess his defensive options.

Butcher is almost certain to continue as Walker's partner for the lone genuine warm-up match in Tunisia on Saturday but Bobby Robson's favourite son is no longer assured of his place. In the words of the England manager: "I shall be keeping my eagle eye on the situation."

The indications are that

Butcher, the more powerful figure, will be selected whenever England need to be cautious. He is likely to start in the opening World Cup tie against the Republic of Ireland and The Netherlands but Wright may be introduced against Egypt, when the side might benefit from a defender who is naturally more comfortable on the ball.

"I chose Wright ahead of Tony Adams because of his pace, brain and passing ability," Robson said. "That is why I gave him all the time he needed to recover from his injury and be included in the squad. But we have to keep his performance in perspective."

"It was a beautiful time for him to come on. The opposition was tiring, we were two up and the match was virtually won. But I thought that he and Tony Dorigo looked like class players. They used the space in front of them to the maximum benefit."

"It puts me in an enviable position because we have a healthy competition for places."

## With Integrity is last of era

By BARRY PICKTHALL

WITH Integrity, the last of the Whitbread Round the World race yachts, arrived in Southampton to close the race and end an era of amateur circumnavigations.

The veteran maxi, in which Chay Blyth and his team of paratroopers won line honours in the first Whitbread race 17 years ago, and which had competed under various guises in each subsequent race, ran aground in the Solent shortly before the finish.

It was the last in a catalogue of catastrophes that beset Andrew Coghill and his crew since the outset of the race last September. These have included broken rigging, boom, and steering, and a radar that malfunctioned almost throughout.

Formerly named Great Britain II, it was known from the outset that the 77ft Alan Gurney design could not com-

pete against modern purpose-built racers like Stenlager 2 and Rothmans, and because of this, the Royal Naval Sailing Association included a cruiser class in the event. Sadly, only two yachts entered and With Integrity ended the race outclassed by her rival, Creighton's Naturally.

Plans for the next race centre on three professional classes, for 60ft yachts, IOR maxis and a new breed of 80ft super-maxis, with no room for amateurs.

Instead, they will be entered for by events like the Chay Blyth-inspired British Steel Challenge, a new round the world race scheduled to start in 1992, which is providing 120 places in a fleet of 67ft One-Design yachts at a fee of £15,000.

FINAL POSITIONS: Stab by Fort Lauderdale to Southampton: Max 1, Stenlager 2 (P. Bicknell, NZ), 17days 08hrs 22min; 2, Fisher & Paykel (S)

Delton, NZ, 17-02-22; 3, Mark (P. Fehrmann, Switzerland), 17-02-22; 4, Rothmans (I. Smith, GB), 17-02-22; 5, The Card (R. Wilson, Scotland), 17-02-22; 6, Belmont (J. Harkness, NZ), 17-02-22; 7, Fortuna (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 8, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 9, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 10, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 11, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 12, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 13, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 14, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 15, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 16, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 17, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 18, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 19, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 20, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 21, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 22, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 23, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 24, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 25, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 26, Fisher (J. Sauerma, NZ), 17-02-22; 27, Fisher (J. 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